

Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance

**"Connecting People, Nature & Communities
with Greenways & Trails"**

2006



Plan



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - Introduction

○ Vision & Goals of SAGA	1
○ SAGA Background	2
○ SAGA's Mission	3
○ Regional Approach	3
○ The Planning Process	3
○ Project Goals	3

CHAPTER 2 – The Benefits of Greenways and Trails

○ Defining Greenways & Trails	5
○ Benefits of Greenways & Trails	6
■ Conservation	6
■ Economic	7
■ Transportation	8
■ Recreation	9
■ Health	9

CHAPTER 3 - Why Do We Need Greenways & Trails

○ Conservation	11
○ Recreation	12
○ Health	13
○ Transportation	13
○ Tourism	15
○ A Regional Survey of Greenways & Trails	15

CHAPTER 4– The Greenway Plan of Action

○ Key Actions for Establishing a Regional System of Greenways & Trails	17
--	----

CHAPTER 5– Guide for Implementing Greenways & Trails

○ Regional Implementation	23
○ Local Implementation	24
○ How to Create Successful Greenways & Trails	24
○ How to Fund Greenways & Trails	25
○ Local Funding Strategies	26

CHAPTER 6– Establishing Regional Connectors

○ Blueways	29
○ Conservation Corridors	30
○ Bike Routes	30
○ Historic Routes	31
○ Greenway/Trail Connectors	31

CHAPTER 7 – SAGA Implementation Plan

○ SAGA Action Chart	36
---------------------	----

APPENDICES & RESOURCE SECTION

○ Appendix A – Regional Technical Assistance Resources	39
○ Appendix B – SAGA Funding Resources	40
○ Appendix C – Greenways & Trails Internet Resources	48
○ Appendix D – Conservation and Trail Easements	51
○ Appendix E – Recommended Reading and Resource Books	52
○ Appendix F – SAGA Public Survey Results	53
○ Appendix G - Local Greenways & Trails Narratives	57
○ Appendix H - Existing Trails Database	83
○ Appendix I - County Maps	96

Acknowledgements

This plan is dedicated to the memory of Ed Williams III, who inspired us to preserve and enjoy the sense of place that is our Southern Appalachian heritage.



The mapping and inventory of this project was made possible through the generous support of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, as a project of the East Tennessee State Park Connections Grant Program and the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Layout and design of this plan was provided by Jeff Law of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Mapping was prepared by Landmark GIS

Printing of this plan was made possible by a Recreation Trails Program grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

**This plan was developed through a partnership with the
National Park Service's
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program**



Participating Organizations

Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council

Roy Settle, Coordinator

Backcountry Horsemen of East Tennessee

Herb Heinze

Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council

Blaine Delaney, Coordinator

J. B. Swiger, Council member

Town of Blountville, Tennessee

Anita Long, citizen

City of Bristol, Tennessee

Stephen Berry, Leisure Services

Margaret Feierabend, Citizen

Mike Johnson, Director, Leisure Services

Rex Montgomery, Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization

Tish Oldham, Planning Department

City of Bristol, Virginia

Bob Childress, Director of Parks & Recreation

East Tennessee State University

Dr. Tony DeLucia

Town of Elizabethton, Tennessee

Mike Mains

David Ornduff, Planning Director

Town of Erwin, Tennessee

Randy Trivette

First Tennessee Development District

Chris Craig

Bill Forrester

Amy McDougal

Town of Gate City, Virginia

Jim Craft, Gate City Civitan Club

Matthew Horton, former Gate City Manager

Mark Jenkins, Mayor

Greene County Partnership

Tammy Kinser

Susan Vance

Greeneville, Tennessee

Debbie Smith

City of Johnson City, Tennessee

Kent Akin, Citizen, Johnson City

Bikeway/Greenway Advisory Council

Jeremy Bryant, Planner

Brad Jones, Parks & Recreation Department

Dan Lentz

Johnson County, Tennessee

Howard Moon, citizen

Linda Moon, citizen

Jonesborough, Tennessee

Bob Browning, Town Administrator

Kay Ann Vance

Keep Greene Beautiful

Candy Adams

David Crum

City of Kingsport, Tennessee

Kitty Frazier, Manager, Kingsport Parks & Recreation

Tom Gannaway, Kingsport Greenbelt Advisory Committee

Angela McElyea, Kingsport Metropolitan Planning Organization

Zellie Earnest, Kingsport Greenbelt Advisory Committee

Kingsport Bicycle Association

Richard Strang

Kingsport Tomorrow

Leisa Jenkins

Susan LaGuardia

Mountain City, Tennessee

Robert Hotchkiss, citizen

Roger Ramsey, citizen

National Park Service: Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Paul Carson, Superintendent

National Park Service: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

Alison Brayton Bullock, Planner

Ursula Lemanski

Sullivan County, Tennessee

Ambre Torbett, Director, Planning Department

Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development – Local Planning Assistance

Stan Harrison

Michael Hughes

Glenn Rosenhoff

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation: Recreation Educational Services

Anne Marshall, Manager, Recreation Resources & Planning

Bob Richards, Greenways & Trails Coordinator

Tennessee Department of Transportation

David Utley, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club

Steve Perri

Tennessee Valley Authority

Bucky Edmonson

U.S.D.A Forest Service: Cherokee National Forest

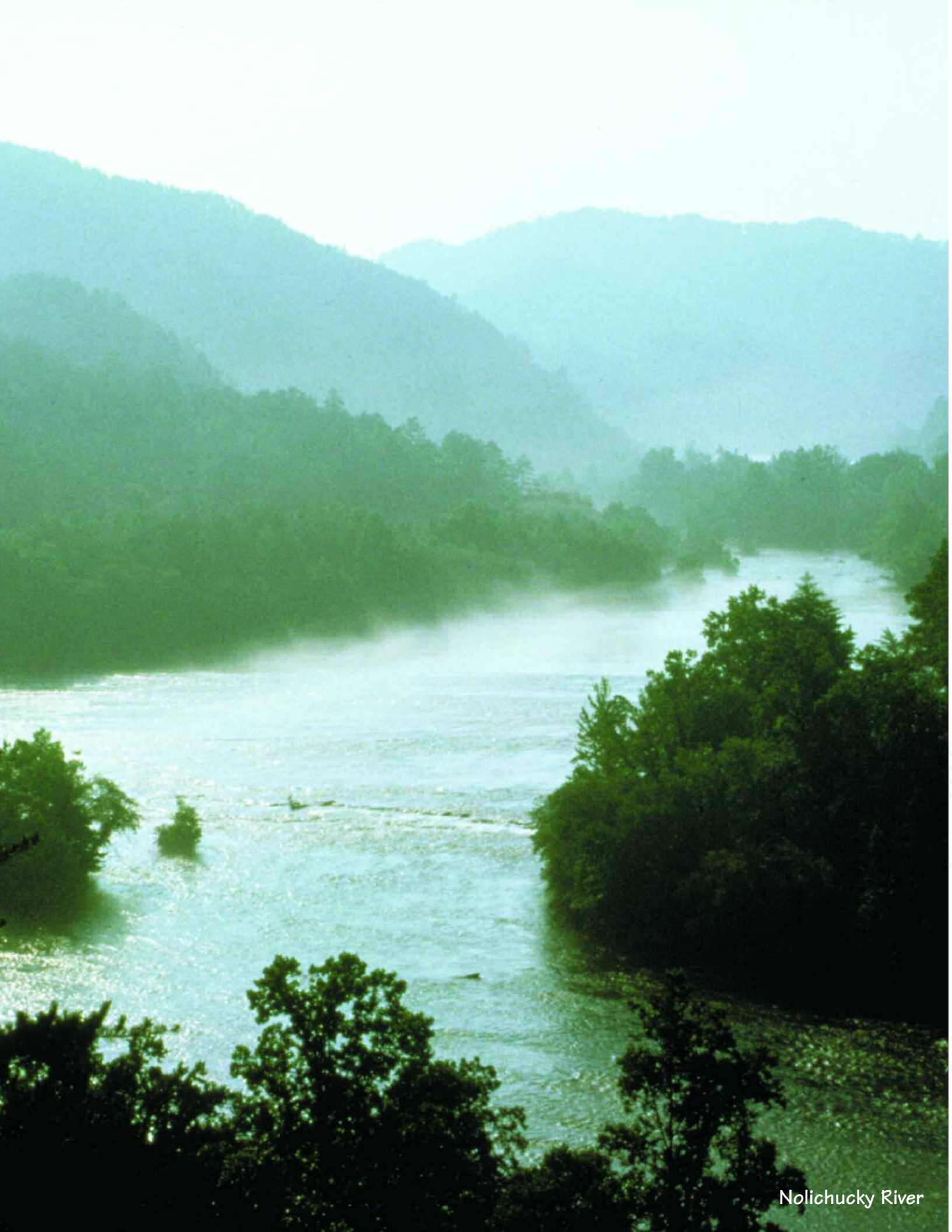
Candace Wyman

Delce Dyer

Bob Patterson

Roby Phillippi

Cheryl Summers



Nolichucky River

Chapter 1 - The Vision...

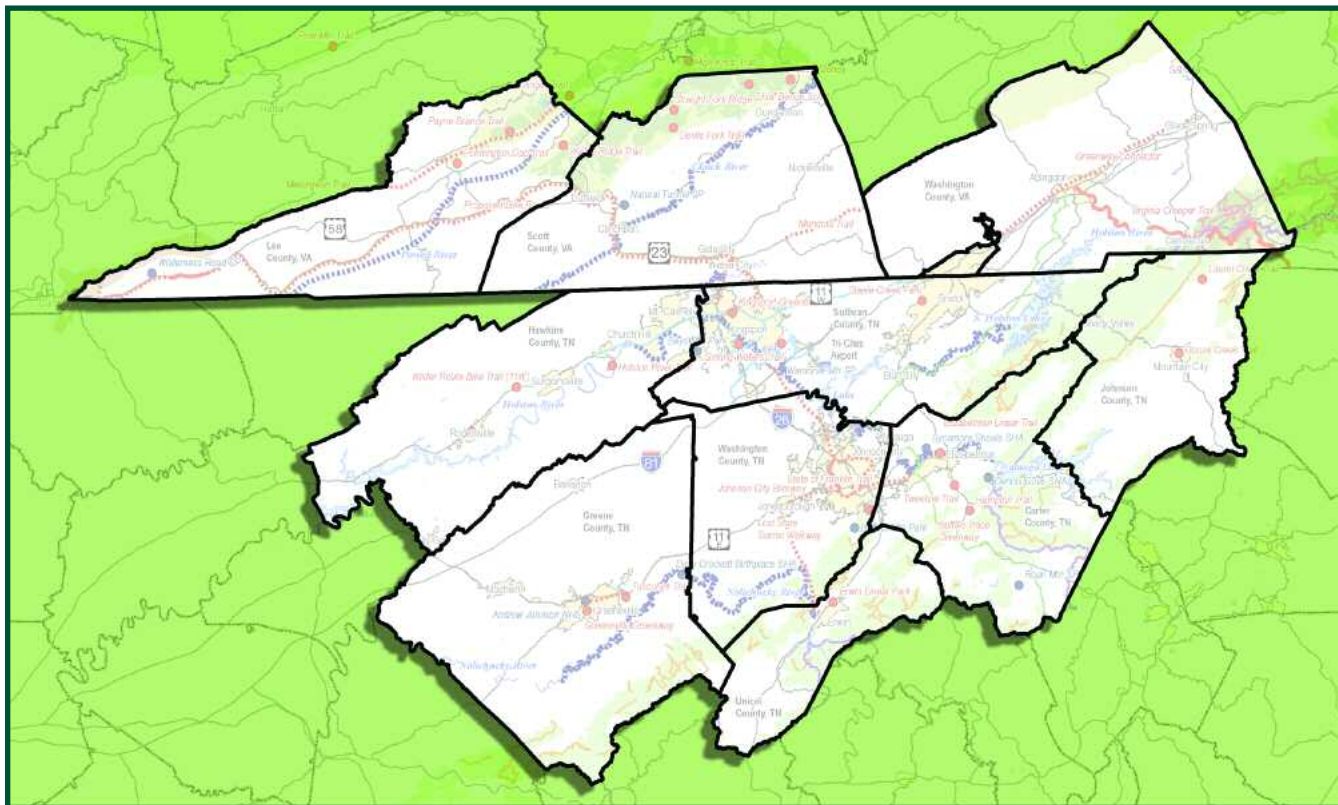
Picture the future of the Southern Appalachian Mountains region. The Unaka and Clinch mountains stand tall and green with lush vegetation; the Holston, Nolichucky and Watauga rivers teem with native fish and recreational boaters; the landscape is inspiring with protected open space and clear scenic vistas; the air smells fresh and it is exciting to be part of something this special, this magnificent.

Can you imagine what it will be like to live in this picturesque place where greenways and trails connect our communities, neighborhoods, and parks? Where you can safely ride your bike from Elizabethton to Bays Mountain or just to the store? Where walking two miles to school was not just something that your grandmother bragged about...Where you can spend a week peacefully paddling a canoe on the many splendid rivers that flow through our valleys...Where special places, like the Buffalo Trace and the Clinch and Powell rivers, have been protected through land conservation... Where outdoor recreation enthusiasts come to enjoy the Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail, to bike the Virginia Creeper, and stay awhile to enjoy the recreational and cultural amenities that our communities have to offer...Our children are growing up with wildlife, flora and protected open space all around them, learning to appreciate the beauty and importance of our home and the land that nurtures it.

While this region still has all the ingredients to make this vision a reality, there is much work to be accomplished to develop a supportive infrastructure for sustainability and stewardship and to harness the potential of the area. The task will be difficult! We must be strategic in our thinking, but the rewards will be tremendous. Come join us in our endeavor to connect people, nature and communities with Greenways and Trails.

The Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) envisions a regional system of greenways and trails that link together the communities of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia connecting people, nature and communities by:

- ◆ Preserving our scenic landscapes and natural open spaces
- ◆ Providing alternative modes of transportation
- ◆ Stimulating our economies through tourism and business development
- ◆ Providing recreation and fitness opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles
- ◆ Encouraging outdoor educational opportunities for our youth.
- ◆ Enhancing social capital and community development across generations and diverse groups.



SAGA Background

In On April 20th 2000, the Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council in partnership with the City of Johnson City's Planning Department and other agencies hosted "at the *Community Design with the Landscape in Mind*". The event was held at the Center at Millennium Park conference held in Johnson City. The one day meeting was attended by approximately , over 1205 participants, speakers and exhibitors. The meeting's focus dealt with Greenways and compatible community design. Keynote speakers were Randall Arendt, Natural Lands Trust, and Chuck Flink of Greenways, Inc. Multiple other presenters represented the region and the State of Tennessee.

During the lunch break there were discussions held at various tables on facilitated topics. One of the topics was regional cooperation. The idea of getting those involved in the region's Greenways together on a regular basis came to the top during this discussion.

In the next month after the meeting, a small group consisting of Kitty Frazier (Kingsport Parks & Recreation), Liesa Jenkins (Kingsport Tomorrow), and Roy Settle (Appalachian RC&D Council) discussed the concept. A letter was sent out to regional attendees of the meeting and other possible participants inviting them to meet on an informal basis. Subsequent meetings were led by Kitty Frazier and Roy Settle. Kent Akin served as chair for nearly two years before moving out of the area. Individuals representing citizen groups from throughout the region spent sev-

eral hours discussing the value of greenways. Considerable interest was expressed in convening a group of people from the Tri-Cities TN/VA region who share an interest of joining forces to support each other to establish, maintain and expand the network of natural area being developed for recreational, transportation and environmental purposes.

The initial meeting of the group was held on September 21st, 2000, at the Kingsport Renaissance Center to explore interest in organizing a support organization for regional trails and greenways development. The 20+ participants listed the various benefits and barriers to creating a network of trails in the region. The group agreed to continue meeting to develop a shared vision, mission and plan. The group has continued to convene bi-monthly, with meetings held in various communities to allow visits to existing trails and facilities. In 2001, the Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council applied for and was awarded assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to assist the region with the planning process. Members of SAGA presented the concept of a regional greenways and trails plan at planning commission, county commission and city council meetings throughout the region and requested support for the effort through a Memorandum of Understanding. Through support of the communities and citizens, SAGA embarked upon the development of a greenways and trails regional plan.



Kingsport Parks & Recreation Department

Kingsport Greenbelt

SAGA's Mission

The Mission of SAGA is to advocate, develop and sustain a creative and comprehensive system of trails and greenways linking communities with natural, cultural and transportation resources in the region. SAGA wishes to promote and facilitate coordinated direction and guidance in the planning, development and maintenance of greenways and green corridors throughout the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region. The project area includes Lee, Scott and Washington counties in Virginia and Carter, Greene, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties in Tennessee.

A Regional Approach

“One for all, and all for one,” the motto of the Three Musketeers,¹ evokes the power of a regional coalition focused on successfully establishing and maintaining a comprehensive system of multi-use corridors that link an area's people and resources. The Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) embraces this regional approach through a coalition of communities, organizations and agencies in ten counties in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The collective vision is connecting communities through a greenway master plan that links all the natural, cultural and transportation resources in the region. Connecting those vast acres of public lakes, forests, parks and historic sites into strands of jewels benefits local economies and enhances regional tourism in many ways that each working individually cannot achieve. Building on individual greenway successes, conservation-minded citizens and communities can learn from, and promote, each other's efforts in trail planning, fund-raising, construction and marketing. Emerging community projects that create links beyond their individual boundaries to the larger system of inter-connecting roads, trails and waterways garner more recognition for both the community's project and the greater coalition's vision and goals.

Realizing this greenway master plan through strong, lasting alliances and public/private partnerships will fulfill SAGA's mission to link Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

The Planning Process

SAGA launched a planning initiative to educate community leaders and engage the region's communities and interest groups in the development of the plan. Over 40 regional organizations have been involved in the process

since its inception. Through a series of four public meetings in 2003 and 2004, participants were presented SAGA's vision for a regional system of greenways and trails and provided input and feedback. This plan is a reflection of community needs and current trends in our region.

Greenways & Trails Goals of the Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance

RECREATION

- ◆ Establish a system of regional, interconnected greenways that provide convenient “access” (including spur and connector trails)
- ◆ Provide well-maintained scenic trails and bikeways for area residents
- ◆ Promote multi-use opportunities to accommodate the diversity of users
- ◆ Work collaboratively with health improvement initiatives to promote physical activity through greenways and trails

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Encourage a “visit us” attitude for tourism
- ◆ Promote the benefits of Greenways & Trails to our regional economy

CONSERVATION

- ◆ Promote preservation of waterways, vegetation, wildlife, historic sites and views
- ◆ Obtain corridors now for future greenways
- ◆ Promote proper ecological land development with responsible stewardship
- ◆ Promote a region-wide philosophy and consistent development standards to manage growth that will accommodate green infrastructure (trails, greenways, buffers, etc.)
- ◆ Support development of environmental education curriculum for youth to seniors
- ◆ Promote the region as an outdoor classroom or “conservation university”

TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ Provide easy access and use of alternative transportation facilities and education of their benefits
- ◆ Link neighborhoods to downtown businesses and cultural resources

¹ “One for all, and all for one” is a motto traditionally associated with the *King's Musketeers* in the novel *The Three Musketeers* written by Alexandre Dumas. It was the motto of three musketeers (royal guards) who stayed loyal to the king of France in troubled times. The “one” probably meant the king and the “all” the people in the book. The motto has passed into popular usage as a statement of solidarity between comrades. It is used by the Hell's Angels, among others. Source: “http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_for_one,_and_one_for_all”



Chapter 2 – The Benefits of Greenways & Trails

Defining Greenways & Trails

For centuries, trails have defined the region. Trails on land and water were used by Native Americans for trade routes, hunting and seasonal migration for centuries prior to the establishment of the United States of America. By the eighteenth century, early white settlers were using horse and wagon trails to establish the area and promote America's desire for Manifest Destiny as our forefathers moved to occupy the west. The Southern Appalachians are rich in historic routes, such as "The Wilderness Road" where Daniel Boone blazed west through the Cumberland Gap in 1773 on "The Wilderness Road," and the Overmountain Victory Trail, where volunteers from the Watauga settlement marched to Kings Mountain, South Carolina, to fight the British during the Revolutionary War across the route known now as the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

In the early 1900s, recreation trails began to emerge around the country. In 1921, the Appalachian Trail was first imagined by Benton MacKaye and, later, became our region's first long distance recreation trail. Today, we have a wide range of trails in our communities and forests, including trails for mountain biking, horseback riding, strolling, and even river paddling.

What are Greenways?

The definition of greenways is often debated because greenways are locally defined by geography, natural resources and community interest. Greenways are typically described as linear corridors of protected open space that are managed for recreation and conservation purposes. Greenways vary from community to community, from large conservation corridors like the Appalachian Trail, to small urban open spaces. The common ingredient of greenways is that they all involve connecting and typically link special points of interest, such as historic, cultural or natural features.

Greenways often include trails, whether paved or naturally surfaced. Trails themselves are more specifically linear corridors features often found within greenway corridors that provide public access for recreation and alternative transportation uses.

Greenways development has grown in popularity during the past decade, with most communities in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia area having at least one greenway or urban trail. Add to the local greenways

the landscape and recreation resources of the Cherokee and George Washington-Jefferson National Forests and the potential greenway connection opportunities are extensive.

Charles Little describes five general types of greenways:

1. "Urban riverside (or other waterbody) greenways, usually created as part of (or instead of) a redevelopment program along neglected, often run-down city waterfronts.
2. Recreational greenways, featuring paths and trails of various kinds, often of relatively long distance, based on natural corridors as well as canals, abandoned railbeds, and public rights-of-way.
3. Ecologically significant natural corridors, usually along rivers and streams and less often ridgelines, to provide for wildlife migration and species interchange, nature study and hiking.
4. Scenic and historic routes, usually along a road, highway or waterway, the most representative of them making an effort to provide pedestrian access along the route or at least places to alight from the car.
5. Comprehensive greenway systems or networks, usually based on natural landforms such as valleys and ridges but sometimes simply an opportunistic assemblage of greenways and open spaces of various kinds to create an alternative municipal or regional green infrastructure."²

There are many types of trails that are addressed in this plan, including:

A greenway is a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridgeline, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, scenic road, or other route. It is any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage. An open-space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as parkway or greenbelt. – Charles Little, *Greenways for America*.

² Little, Charles E. *Greenways for America*, The John Hopkins University Press, 1990.

Blueways – Also known as water trails, blueways are paddling trails for non-motorized recreational boating. According to the North America Water Trails Association, a water trail is a stretch of river, a shoreline, or an ocean that has been mapped out with the intent to create an educational, scenic, and challenging experience for recreational canoeists and kayakers.

Mountain Biking – Since the invention of an off-road bicycle in the 1980s, mountain biking has grown in popularity by leaps and bounds. Mountain bike routes vary from flat, gentle terrain like you would find on an old country gravel road to challenging, hilly, single-track routes winding through the trees of the forest. For the adventurous, obstacles only add to the challenge.

Equestrian – Horse trails have been around since the settlement of the region. Equestrian trails are typically natural-surfaced recreation trails that include a variety of terrain, from open fields to steeper mountain terrain trails. Horse trails with specially designed trailhead and camping facilities are gaining in popularity.

Hiking & Nature Trails – Whether backpacking in the Cherokee National Forest, or enjoying a quick stroll at Steele Creek Nature Center, hiking and nature trails provide an opportunity for area residents to experience the wonders of our great outdoors on a natural surfaced path. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is our country's most famous hiking trail, and is right in our community's backyard.

Walking/Urban Trails – Urban trails are typically paved trails on relatively flat terrain within community parks, along riverbanks, and connecting community points of interest. These urban trails are most often designed for walking, jogging and sometimes bicycling uses. They provide the convenient access for residents to get out, exercise and enjoy nature.

Multiple Use Trails – Multi-use trails are a combination of two or more types of trail use on a single trail. These trails can be urban trail systems where pedestrians and bicycles use a trail within a greenway for transportation connections. They are also found in the backcountry as natural surface trails where equestrians, mountain bikers and hikers collectively share a trail or trail system.

Rails-to-Trails – Rail-trails are paths along abandoned or unused railroad corridors. Commonly designated for multiple uses, these natural trail corridors offer a great opportunity to establish trails on a gentle grade with minimal site preparation required to convert to trail use. The most challenging aspect of a rail-trail is often securing the ownership rights to the property. Trails along former rail routes have become highly popular, averaging 300 miles of new trail constructed per year with funding from a variety of government and other funding sources.³ A good example within the SAGA region is the Virginia Creeper Trail.

The Benefits of Greenways and Trails

Conservation Benefits

Greenways should first be thought of as a conservation strategy. The original purpose of a greenway is to conserve natural resources, but in many communities that concept has been lost and replaced with paved trails some may call a “gray-way”. While trails provide an important asset to communities, there is a greater opportunity to protect natural features and promote greater ecological balance.⁴

Greenways offer a wide range of benefits for our natural environment. When approached as conservation corridors, they can serve the following ecological functions:

- ◆ Habitat for native wildlife and vegetative species
- ◆ Conduit for wildlife migration
- ◆ Filters for cleansing non-point source water pollution
- ◆ Improve air quality in urban areas where vegetation is maintained
- ◆ Contain floodwaters by improving ground absorption of run-off and providing flood water storage areas during flood events
- ◆ Mitigate heat island effects of urban-built environments, providing potential energy savings from reduced air conditioning and heating costs

Greenways help protect open space and provide the backbone for a *green infrastructure*. “Green Infrastructure is the Nation’s natural life support system - a strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements, and working lands with conservation value that supports native species; maintains natural ecological processes; sustains air and water resources; and contributes to the health and quality of life for America’s communities and people. The Green Infrastructure network encompasses a wide range of landscape elements, including: natural areas - such as wetlands, woodlands, waterways, and wildlife habitat; public and private conservation lands - such as nature preserves, wildlife corridors, greenways, and parks; and public and private working lands of conservation value - such as forests, farms, and ranches. It also incorporates outdoor recreation opportunities and trail networks.”⁵

A secondary conservation benefit of greenways is that they can serve as outdoor classrooms and living laboratories for our communities. Students and adults alike are provided with close to home opportunities for nature study.

³ Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

⁴ Labaree, Jonathan M., *How Greenways Work: A Handbook on Ecology*, National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, 1992.



Damascus, VA

Economic Benefits

Greenways make important contributions to our local economies. Investments by local communities in greenway and trail infrastructure can have multiple benefits with a return far greater than the initial expense.

You only have to visit Damascus, Virginia, to realize the economic boom trails can have in your community. Once a thriving manufacturing town with a peak population of 2000 residents in the 1950s, most industry left Damascus during the decades to follow, and its population tumbled to around 900 by 1990. Damascus now sits at the intersection of five major long distance trails: the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, the Virginia Creeper Trail, the Trans America “76” Bicentennial Bike Trail, and the Iron Mountain Trail. Its vantage point at the base of Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area and the rural charm of the community provided a foundation for becoming “Trail Town USA” as it was recently named by the American Hiking Society.

What has this done for the Damascus economy?

As local resident Tom Horsch describes, “Over the last 10 years Damascus has mounted a comeback based on increasing tourist visits. Some facts that support this claim include the fact that the population has increased from 900 in 1990 to approximately 1,200 in 1999. Real estate and personal property tax revenues have doubled! Local taxes, including sales taxes, have increased 70%. In 1998, a food and lodging tax was passed by the town council. In the year ending June 30, 2001, just over \$30,000 in new revenue enhancement was realized. There’s not an empty commercial building in town, and we are studying ways to handle our potential traffic and parking problems. The

housing market is in short supply and any house that becomes available is quickly bought with the prices going up. The business community has added six restaurants, a hiking outfitter, a full-service bicycle shop, three bike rental and shuttle businesses, a guided tour company, eight bed and breakfast establishments, two antique shops and an ice cream shop & bakery. However, we still have no red lights, fast food or motels!”⁶

An Economic Impact Study of the Virginia Creeper Trail was completed in December 2004. The study estimated the total impacts of non-local trail visitors to the economies of Washington and Grayson counties. Non-locals accounted for an estimated 68,769 trail visits, which equate to about 50,863 person-trips annually. Total output for these trips is estimated at \$1.59 million. These trips support approximately 27.4 new full-time job equivalents annually.⁷

How can Greenways & Trails Boost Your Communities Local Economy?

Real Property Values – Studies continue to show that area greenway and park development increases the value of adjacent residential property. Buyers pay a premium for property next to permanently protected open space and public recreation amenities. The benefit to local governments is in the form of increased tax revenues that can help offset the cost of greenway development and maintenance.

Commercial Uses – Greenways and trails often provide business opportunities, locations and resources for commercial activities such as recreation equipment rentals and sales and other related businesses. From bed and breakfasts, restaurants to recreation equipment outfitters, greenways can provide a new avenue for small business development.

Stimulate Reinvestment in Once Blighted Areas – Greenways and trails often rejuvenate formerly blighted or neglected areas. Many communities have used greenway initiatives to spark waterfront developments, the rebirth of downtown business areas and revitalization of neighborhoods. Contaminated brownfields have been cleansed and converted to public green space in communities like Denver and Chattanooga. Greenways and trails have even been found to reduce crime rates in once blighted areas by increasing visibility and visitor access to the area.

Reduced Cost of Healthcare – In today’s economy, we all struggle with the rising cost of healthcare. Healthy residents translate to lower health care costs. Across the country, businesses are installing health care facilities and

⁵ GreenInfrastructure.net

⁶ Thomas R. Horsch, Damascus, Virginia, 2002

⁷ “The Virginia Creeper Trail: An Assessment of User Demographics, Preferences, and Economics”, J.M. Bowker, John C. Bergstrom and Joshua K. Gill, prepared by the US Forest Service Southern Forest Research Station and University of Georgia, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, December 2004.

providing other incentives to encourage employees to get fit. Greenways provide opportunity for fitness to all residents, regardless of their fitness level or abilities, and without the cost of joining a gym.

A National Park Service study compared people who lead sedentary lifestyles to those who exercise regularly. The exercisers filed 14 percent fewer healthcare claims, spent 30 percent fewer days in the hospital, and had 41 percent fewer claims greater than \$5,000.⁸ Hiking is an effective way to control weight, and trails provide an important tool in combating the nation's obesity epidemic. Taxpayers foot the doctor's bill for more than half of obesity-related medical costs, which reached a total of \$75 billion in 2003.⁹

Corporate recruitment - Quality of life for employees is a leading factor in why corporations relocate. Greenways are fast becoming an amenity sought after in corporate relocations. In the mid-1990s, Ruby Tuesday Inc. moved its national headquarters from Mobile, Alabama, to Maryville, Tennessee. According to the company's Chairman, Sandy Beall, "the specific site was chosen in downtown Maryville primarily due to its location on the beautiful Greenbelt greenbelt and trail system."¹⁰ Ruby Tuesday uses the community greenway system as a transportation resource for new employees coming to the headquarters for training. New employees are provided a bicycle when they arrive, and travel between training facilities along the trail.¹¹

Tourism Development and Expenditures – Tourism is one of the greatest benefits for communities that invest in greenways and trails. Greenways not only improve the livability of a community, they also appeal to tourists. When visitors go on vacation they go to places where they can get out of their cars and walk or bicycle. Communities with pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and combined with recreation opportunities often benefit from increased sales.

The newly released *Upper Nolichucky River Watershed Resource Benefit Study* attempts to quantify the economic benefits Unicoi County, TN, receives from outdoor recreation based activities. This study examined benefits derived from the Nolichucky River, Appalachian Trail, Cherokee National Forest, and scenic viewsheds. This study estimates the current economic benefit of these resources at \$12.1 million annually [2005 figures]. The study recommends that by properly expanding the existing infrastructure of trails and better promoting the resources, the local area could see an increase of 39% in expenditures to \$16.8 million annually.¹²

Another recent case study explored the economic benefits of trails in the Outer Banks area of North Carolina. The study concluded that bicycling generated approximately \$60 million in added revenues to the area, and that bicycling facilities were an important factor to many visitors' decisions to come to that area. In the Outer Banks area alone, over 1,400 jobs were created or supported by revenues from bicycle use. **The one-time investment of approximately \$6.7 million in government funds to construct the bicycle facilities has resulted in a 9-fold return on that investment annually.**¹³

According to a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "66 million Americans spent more than \$38 billion in 2001 observing, feeding or photographing wildlife."¹⁴

- ◆ Wildlife watching in the United States generates \$85 million per year
- ◆ U.S. employment income generated by wildlife watching: \$27.8 million
- ◆ State and federal tax revenues from wildlife watching: \$6.1 billion

Transportation Benefits

While we may think of trails and greenways as paths we find in parks, the growing trend in communities around the country is the use of trails as transportation connections. Typically paved and designed for both bicycles and pedestrians, urban trails are considered a form of alternative transportation that can provide a host of benefits.

Strategically designed urban greenways connect key community facilities. In many larger communities you can find people who commute to work by foot or bicycle. It's a great way to get daily exercise and unwind after a stressful day at the office. Such facilities also promote walking and bicycling to school where neighborhoods and school facilities are connected. Communities such as Maryville, Tennessee, have connected neighborhoods to shopping areas, schools, businesses and local parks, decreasing the need for automobile trips and reducing traffic congestion.

Community paths also can increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by having separate facilities, and designated bike lanes where bicycles and automobiles share the road. And in communities where air quality does not meet the Environmental Protection Agency's attainment standards, greenways are a great way to reduce auto trips and reduce air emissions.

In the document "Trails & Greenways: Advancing the Smart Growth Agenda", published by the Rails-To-Trails

⁸ Greenways Incorporated, p. 14.

⁹ CNN.com, *CDC: Medical cost of obesity \$75 billion*, 2004 <http://www.cnn.com/2004/HEALTH/conditions/01/21/obesity.spending.ap/>

¹⁰ Sandy Beall, Chairman of the Board, President & CEO, Ruby Tuesday, Inc.

¹¹ Tennessee Greenways & Trails Plan, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, 2001

¹² *Upper Nolichucky River Watershed Resource Benefit Study*, Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design, Inc., Asheville, NC, May 27, 2005.

¹³ *Pathways to Prosperity: The Economic Impact of Investments in Bicycle Facilities*. A case study of the North Carolina Outer Banks. North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2004

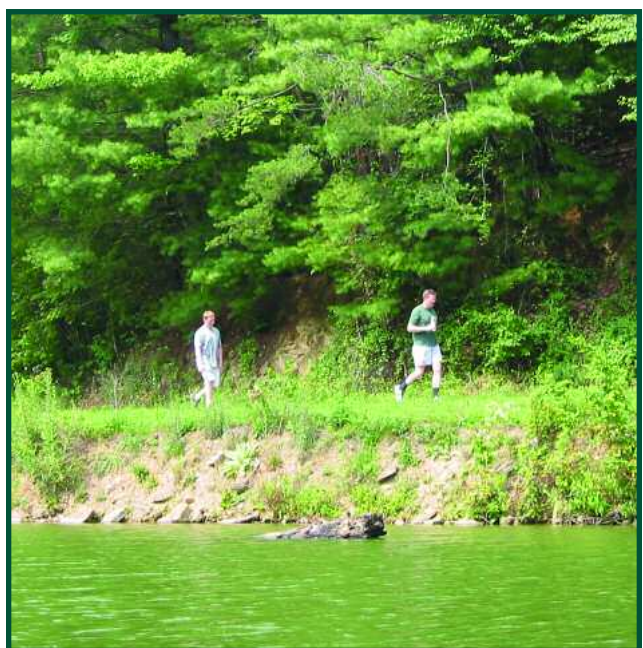
¹⁴ *How Much is Clean Water Worth*, by Jim Morrison, National Wildlife Magazine, Feb/Mar 2005

Conservancy in September 2002, author Hugh Morris referred to a study conducted by the Seattle Engineering Department to estimate the total value of trips diverted from motor vehicle to bicycle. Costs avoided included congestion, road, parking, gas, air pollution, and noise by diverting single occupancy vehicle trips to an urban trail.¹⁵ Drawing on a variety of research, the principle investigator, Litman (1999) calculated this cost savings to be \$3.58 for a 2.5 mile trip in an urban area during rush hour. Using a low-end estimate of 1000 trips per day diverted to bicycles, Litman calculated savings of \$1,790 per day or \$450,000 per year.¹⁶

Recreation Benefits

Greenways and trails can provide recreation benefits to virtually everyone in a community. Unlike ball fields, tennis courts, and other specialized recreation facilities, trails appeal to a broader array of residents, including the young and old, and people with a wide range of athletic and physical abilities. Whether you are a marathon runner or have limited mobility, greenways offer an avenue for everyone to enjoy the outdoors. Most community trails are free of cost and do not require a gym membership or investment in a home treadmill to reap the benefits. Trails help promote healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

Greenways and trails are part of a growing trend in



Roy Sattler

Steele Creek Nature Park Trail Bristol, TN

passive recreation facilities that provide additional opportunities for activities such as wildlife viewing, nature photography, geocaching, and even mental rejuvenation. A comprehensive system of greenways and trails should also include opportunities for walkers, joggers, cyclists, equestrians, as well as paddling on area rivers and lakes.

Health Benefits

Greenways can provide a community fitness opportunity accessible free of charge to people of all ages and economic status. As Americans, we continue to demonstrate our desire for fast foods and the convenience of using our automobiles and remote controls. This sedentary, consuming lifestyle is especially apparent in the Southeast, where data shows the highest percentage of obesity rates among both adults and youth.

Evidence has shown that walking or similar moderate activity 30 minutes at least 5 days a week can provide significant health benefits, both physical and mental. Regular physical activity can be promoted by providing more outlets for outdoor recreation, including greenways and trails. Benefits of regular physical activity include:

- ✓ Substantial reduction of the risk of dying of coronary heart disease, the nation's leading cause of death,
- ✓ Decreased risk for stroke,
- ✓ Decreased risk of colon cancer,
- ✓ Decreased risk of developing diabetes,
- ✓ Decreased risk of developing high blood pressure,
- ✓ Aids control of a healthy weight,
- ✓ Encourages healthy bones, muscles, and joints,
- ✓ Reduces falls among older adults,
- ✓ Helps relieve the pain of arthritis
- ✓ Reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression
- ✓ Fewer hospitalizations, physician visits, and medications¹⁷

Physicians recommend:

- ◆ Adults should engage in moderate-intensity physical activities for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days of the week.¹⁸
- OR —
- ◆ Adults should engage in vigorous-intensity physical activity 3 or more days per week for 20 or more minutes per occasion.¹⁹

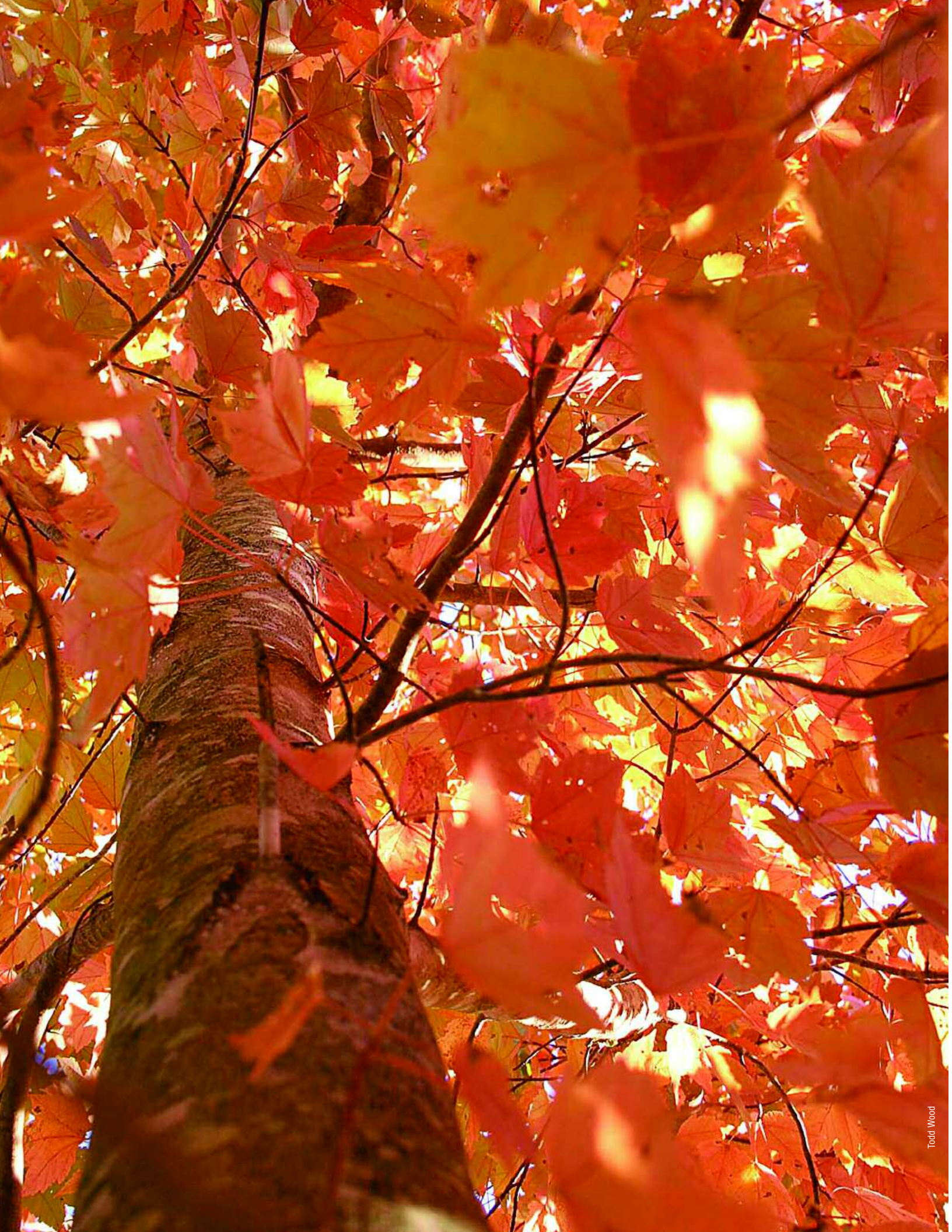
¹⁵ Morris, Hugh, "Trails & Greenways: Advancing the Smart Growth Agenda", Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, September 2002.

¹⁶ Litman, T. 1999. "Quantifying the Benefits of Non-Motorized Transportation for Achieving TDM Objectives." Victoria Transportation Policy Institute, Victoria, British Columbia, December 1999.

¹⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/importance/index.htm>

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/American College of Sports Medicine

¹⁹ *Healthy People 2010*



Chapter 3 – Why Do We Need Greenways & Trails?

The Southern Appalachian region is home to over 700 miles of trails, primarily backcountry trails within the National Forests. The call to expand our network of greenways and trails in the region is apparent to meet a variety of conservation, health, transportation and recreation needs in our communities. Consider the following:

Conservation

The Southern Appalachian Mountains are home to a diverse array of natural and cultural resources. From tall mountains with cascading waterfalls and spruce fir trees to river valleys teeming with one of the most biodiverse assemblages of aquatic life in the world, our natural heritage compels us to conserve these resources. Culturally, this region has been occupied for centuries by Native Americans. East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia played important roles in staging America's westward movement, led by Daniel Boone. Later, the region's Overmountain Men banded together, marching to South Carolina in a successful mission to battle and defeat the British for our country's freedom. The North-east Tennessee/Southwest Virginia region is a tremendous natural, historical and cultural asset.

Water Resources

The Clinch River flows from its headwaters in Southwest Virginia through Scott County, Virginia. According to the Nature Conservancy, the Clinch River has the highest number of globally imperiled and vulnerable freshwater species in the United States. Home to 48 rare mussel and fish species, the Clinch River is a national jewel. Around the region, the Nolichucky River harbors 20 at-risk fish and mussel species, the South Fork of the Holston River has 18, and the North Fork of the Holston River hosts 17. These precious resources need protection.²⁰

The fact is, Virginia and Tennessee are home to an extraordinary assemblage of freshwater species. But their future is threatened by nonpoint source pollution, non-native species and dam operations.

Water resource protection is not only important to wildlife, it is essential to the future clean drinking water supply for the region. The American Water Works Association sees watershed protection as key to protecting our nation's drinking water, stating in a 1991 study that "the most effective way to ensure the long-term protection of water supplies is through landownership by the water supplier and its cooperative public jurisdictions."²¹

Landscapes

Nestled between the Appalachian Mountain range and the Cumberland Mountains of the Virginia and Kentucky border, the area is rich with open space, farmland, forests and wildlife habitat. Conversely, urban growth continues to threaten our landscape as highways, subdivisions and shopping centers are now popping up where farms and forests once stood. Government regulations and zoning have not done enough to manage growth, particularly in outlying areas where development is often welcome to bolster tax revenues.

Our communities are under tremendous pressure to encourage growth as a way of attracting businesses, jobs and increasing local tax revenues. Areas with the highest suburban growth rates in the region include²²:

- ◆ Scott County, Virginia
- ◆ Washington County, Virginia
- ◆ Hawkins County, Tennessee
- ◆ Sullivan County, Tennessee
- ◆ Washington County, Tennessee

Smart growth practices are needed to preserve our landscape heritage. Greenway corridors can help preserve open space, while providing a benefit to terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, migratory birds, watersheds and viewsheds²³.

Consider a new approach to land development. In the late 1990s, Tennessee enacted Public Chapter 1101 mandating Growth Planning to limit sprawl. Tennessee municipal land use codes now have to comply with the State-mandated Growth Plans. Planned and sustainable communities offer a balanced approach that promotes self-sufficient and ecologically safe development. One type of sustainable design includes the concept of Open Space Residential Development or OSRD. This concept can offer lower costs to the developer, as streets are narrower and shorter, lots are clustered, while drainage, septic, wells and unsuitable lands are then reserved for common open space, light recreation, trails, or even agricultural land uses. Such plans result in more marketable and valuable lots; less stress upon the public infrastructure in maintenance costs; decreases pollution; and encourages healthier and more livable communities. OSRD-based plans can offer places for residents to congregate, recreate and network. The open spaces can then link to other open spaces via trails, parks and public spaces. OSRD-based plans should be encouraged by regional and local planners as a means of creating a neighborhood scale of trails, greenways, sidewalks, open spaces, and public spaces that are well planned.²⁴

²⁰ *Rivers of Life: Critical Watersheds for Protecting Freshwater Biodiversity*. The Nature Conservancy 1998.

²¹ American Water Works Association Journal, 1991.

²² *Measuring the Health Effects of Sprawl: A National Analysis of Physical Activity, Obesity and Chronic Disease*, Smart Growth America, 2003.

²³ *Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan*, 2001, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

²⁴ Background research taken from the following sources: ACIP, Practicing Planner – "The New Wave: Technical Assistance for Smart Growth" by Ilana Preuess; The Land Use Tracker, Volume 2, Issue 1, 2002. "An Innovated Tool for Managing Rural Residential Development: A Look at Conservation Subdivisions: by Anna Haines, PhD; and "Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances" by Randall Arendt.

Recreation

In the National Survey of Recreation and Conservation (NSRE) from 1999-2003 conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, 2,100 Tennesseans were interviewed along with 14,000 residents of the market region of surrounding states. The NSRE survey indicated that “activities that grew the fastest between 1995 and 2003...are activities that involve natural, undeveloped lands and adjacent waters.” Of the fastest growing activities on undeveloped land, walking for pleasure was ranked as the number one activity at 80.9% participation. Participation in rafting, canoeing and kayaking grew at a rate of 77.9% during 1995 and 2003, and the largest sector of growth in outdoor recreation is wildlife viewing and photography.²⁵

The NSRE survey ranks participation of several activities related to greenways and trails:

Activity	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (millions)
Walking for pleasure	80.9	3.60
Viewing/photographing natural scenery	57.1	2.54
Picnicking	55.6	2.47
Visiting a nature center, nature trail, zoo	53.1	2.36
Viewing/photographing other wildlife	45.3	2.02
Viewing/photographing wildflower, trees, etc.	40.5	1.80
Running or jogging	34.7	1.54
Day Hiking	34.2	1.52
Viewing/photographing birds	31.6	1.41
Bicycling	29.1	1.30



Alison Bullock

Mountain biking on Raccoon Mountain near Chattanooga

The *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)* is the state’s official conservation, outdoor recreation and open space plan which largely mirrors this data. In 2000, a statewide survey was conducted of recreational activities throughout the commonwealth. Out of 39 categories, the top six activities and percentage of respondents participating are as follows:

Rank	Activity	Percent Participating
1	Walking for pleasure	67.1
2	Driving for pleasure	62.4
3	Swimming	52.2
4	Fishing	42.0
5	Visiting historic sites	40.4
6	Bicycling	39.7

Source: 2002 Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, February 2002

According to the 2001 *Tennessee Greenways & Trails Plan*, the top reasons Tennesseans use greenways and trails are:

- ◆ To enjoy the scenic quality/nature – 73%
- ◆ To reduce stress – 55%
- ◆ For exercise and fitness – 50%
- ◆ Challenge of the sport – 44%
- ◆ To get away from the city – 41%

²⁵ *Tennessee State Recreation Plan 2003-2008*, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

Health

The health of our region's citizens is steadily declining due to inactivity, obesity and other lifestyle factors. The facts are staggering:

- ◆ Tennessee has the 9th highest level of adult obesity in the nation at 25.0%, and has the 2nd highest overweight high school student level at 15.2%. The State spent \$315 per person in 2003 on medical costs related to obesity, the 6th highest in the country.²⁶
- ◆ According to the Tennessee State Recreation Plan, 46% of Tennessee adults are overweight and 38% of Tennesseans report participating in no physical activity, the 4th highest rate in the nation.²⁷
- ◆ Tennessee has the fifth highest rate of death from heart disease and stroke.²⁸
- ◆ Virginia ranks 30th in the nation for obesity, with a 21.7% adult obesity rate. The cost to the State was estimated at \$222 per person in 2003.²⁹
- ◆ Obesity maps from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have shown a steady increase in percentage of overweight and obese adults. According to Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the CDC, nearly two-thirds of Americans are thus overweight and with that condition comes increased risk of Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, some types of cancer, and a host of other disabling conditions. The Surgeon General estimated in 2000 the costs of the obesity epidemic as \$117 billion in direct medical expenses and loss of productivity.
- ◆ In a survey by the CDC, fewer than 40% of Tennessee and Virginia adults met the recommended levels of physical activity from 1986-2000³⁰
- ◆ Fewer than 30% of students walk to school, and only 3% ride their bicycle³¹

Greenways and trails are a common sense approach to addressing the health issues facing our communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stressing the importance of an active lifestyle, have established a program called "Trails for Health" to provide information and technical assistance to states and promote the connection between trails and health. The initiative promotes walking, bicycling and the establishment of accessible recreation facilities. The cumulative benefits of walking for fitness on greenways and trails are tremendous.

Transportation

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan element of the Long-Range Transportation Plan for Tennessee aims to position Tennessee as one of the most progressive states for bicycling and walking for the next 25 years. The plan recommends approximately \$200 million worth of improvements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities over the next 25 years, including implementation of eight new state bicycle routes, eliminating gaps for bicyclists and pedestrians, funding maintenance programs to improve existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and funding to bring pedestrian facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The proposed package also includes funding for programs such as Safe Routes to School, the Bicycle Transportation Fund and the Pedestrian Transportation Fund.

During the plan's development, approximately 30 percent of all comments collected in a public survey were related to bicycle and walking issues. Comments received from 2,572 respondents included suggestions that:

- ◆ Cities/counties/state should provide wider shoulders or bike lanes, especially on scenic routes and in cities
- ◆ Cities/counties/state should provide additional greenways and pathways
- ◆ Urban bikeway systems need better connectivity, especially at major freeways
- ◆ Better shoulder maintenance is needed
- ◆ Better education and enforcement is necessary to address motorists' lack of courtesy
- ◆ Adequate pedestrian walkways are needed
- ◆ Crossing some intersections can be challenging
- ◆ Sidewalk conditions are often poor

Communities need to work closely with state transportation officials to address the needs of commuter bicyclists, recreational bicyclists and pedestrians when developing local transportation and land use plans.

The needs of children must also be considered in pedestrian planning. Thirty years ago, 66 percent of all children walked or bicycled to school. Today, 87 percent of all trips to and from school are by car or bus, and in some areas more than 20 percent of morning traffic is parents driving their children to school. The explanation of this change includes expanding low-density school districts, parental concerns about safety and security, siting of new schools to the periphery of communities, and increases in traffic on local roadways.³²

²⁶ *Tennessee Ranks 9th in National for Obesity, New Report Finds State and Federal Obesity Policies are Failing*, Trust for America's Health, 2005, <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity/release.php?StateID=TN>

²⁷ *Tennessee State Recreation Plan 2003-2008*, Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation, p.17

²⁸ National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

²⁹ *Virginia Ranks 30th in Nation for Obesity, New Report Finds State and Federal Obesity Policies are Failing*, Trust for America's Health, 2005, <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity/release.php?StateID=VA>

³⁰ Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

³¹ National Personal Transportation Survey, Federal Highway Administration, 1995

³² Draft Report of the *Tennessee Long-Range Transportation Plan: Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*, August 2005, Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The recently passed SAFETEA-LU transportation bill includes a major emphasis on Safe Routes to Schools programs, and includes some funding for education, engineering and infrastructure changes to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety to schools. The impetus of this legislation is the growing concern for the health and inactive lifestyles of our school age children.

An important component of developing bicycle and pedestrian networks is to provide connectivity between popular origins and destinations. Significant origins and destinations at the local area include large employers, businesses, parks, neighborhoods, shopping areas, and schools. On a regional basis, these include larger attractors and generators which serve a broader population, including tourist attractions, colleges, statewide transit facilities, regional parks, and places that host major regional events.



David Metzger

Wes Davis Greenway in Bristol, TN

Examples of Major Attractors and Generators in the SAGA region include:

Allandale Mansion	Kingsport, TN
Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Cemetery	Greeneville, TN
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Jefferson and Cherokee National Forests
Barter Theatre	Abingdon, VA
Bays Mountain Park	Kingsport, TN
Bristol Caverns	Bristol, TN
Buffalo Mountain Park	Johnson City, TN
Cherokee National Forest	Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan & Unicoi Co., TN
Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	Cumberland Gap, TN
Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park	Tusculum, TN
East Tennessee State University	Johnson City, TN
Exchange Place	Kingsport, TN
George Washington-Jefferson National Forest	Washington Co. VA
Gray Fossil Site	Gray, TN
King College	Bristol, TN
Milligan College	Carter Co., TN
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area	Washington Co. VA
NASCAR at Bristol Motor Speedway	Bristol, TN
National Storytelling Festival the 1st weekend in October	Jonesborough, TN
Natural Tunnel State Park	Scott County, VA
Rhododendron Festival, late June	Roan Mountain, TN
Roan Mountain State Park	Roan Mountain, TN
Rocky Mount Museum	Piney Flats, TN
Steele Creek Nature Center	Bristol, TN
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park	Elizabethton, TN
Tipton Haynes State Historic Site	Johnson City, TN
Trail Days	Damascus, VA
Tusculum College	Tusculum, TN
Virginia Highlands Community College	Abingdon, VA
Wilderness Road State Park	Ewing, VA
Warrior's Path State Park	Kingsport, TN



Todd Wood

Jonesborough, TN

Tourism

The impact of tourism on the Southern Appalachian regional economy is tremendous. In Tennessee, tourism ranks as the #2 industry in the state. In Virginia, travel and tourism is the fifth largest private-sector employer in the commonwealth, generating 7.0 percent of total employment in 2003, for a total of 280,700 full-time jobs.³³ With the resources at hand, the region has ample opportunity to promote eco-tourism and heritage tourism.

“Nature-based recreation is possibly the most rapidly growing sector of the tourist industry. According to a 2002 study by the Travel Industry Association of America:

- ◆ American travelers love the great outdoors, as evidenced by the nearly 65 million Americans who say they have taken at least one trip of 50 miles or more, one-way, away from home to visit a national or state park and/or forest in the past year.
- ◆ Participating in outdoor activities, including visits to national or state parks, is the second most popular trip activity overall by American travelers.”³⁴
- ◆ A 2002 study of the Virginia Creeper Trail in southwest Virginia found that non-local visitors traveled an average of 260 miles and 4.6 hours to reach the trail.³⁵

A 2002 economic study of the economic impacts of Great Smoky Mountain National Park visitors on the local economy calculated \$340 million in revenue from direct sales, translating to 7,775 jobs and \$131 million in personal income. Visitors surveyed indicated that their primary purpose for their trip was to visit the park.³⁶

As our economy continues to lag and unemployment figures are especially high in rural areas of the region, eco- and heritage tourism offer great opportunity for sustainable economic growth.

A Regional Survey of Greenways and Trails

A survey distributed by the Southern Appalachians Greenways Alliance at public meetings held around the region in 2003 and 2004 identified the following results. (see Appendix F for a complete summary of survey results)

- ◆ 53% of respondents currently use walking trails as their number one use of trails
- ◆ 62.5% of respondents ranked walking trails as the primary need in their community
- ◆ 38% of respondents believe that the highest priority for trail development in their community should be creating multiple use trails
- ◆ 61% of participants believe that the highest regional priority for trail development should be connecting counties and major cities with walking/jogging trails
- ◆ 74% of those surveyed believe that the role of volunteers in trail construction and maintenance is Very Important
- ◆ 76% of respondents believe that the cost of greenway and trail projects should be cost shared with Local, State and/or Federal government agencies through grant programs.

In 2002, the *Regional Vision 2025 Project* garnered input from seventeen regional counties in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Over 1,000 citizens participated in 39 meetings held in the region, generating 7,355 ideas to strengthen and unite communities. Greenways and trails continuously emerged as a top interest of our citizens, ranking number one in the final survey count.

*“It is my Vision that our Region will
Encourage Play through...
#1 - Trails and Parks that Link us with
Natural and Historical Treasures.”³⁷*

³³ “The Virginia Tourism Satellite Account: A Comprehensive Understanding of the Economic Contribution of Travel & Tourism in the State of Virginia,” Adam Sacks, Christopher Pike, Global Insight Travel and Tourism, prepared for the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Summer 2004.

³⁴ *Tennessee State Recreation Plan 2003-2008*, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

³⁵ “The Virginia Creeper Trail: An Assessment of User Demographics, Preferences, and Economics”, J.M. Bowker, John C. Bergstrom and Joshua K. Gill, prepared by the US Forest Service Southern Forest Research Station and University of Georgia, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, December 2004.

³⁶ *Economic Impacts of Great Smoky Mountain National Park Visitors on the Local Region, 1997-2000*, Daniel J. Stynes, Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources, Michigan State University, 2002.

³⁷ *Tri-Cities TN/VA Regional Partnership VISION 2025 Executive Summary*, August 29, 2002.



Chapter 4 – The Greenway Plan of Action

KEY ACTIONS for establishing a regional system of Greenways & Trails

✓ Make Trail Connections Happen

- ◇ As more communities in our region continue to develop trails and greenways, the opportunity now exists to begin making connections that stretch beyond political boundaries. The outcome would be a network of conservation corridors and trails that combined would offer new opportunities for recreation, land protection, alternative transportation and economic growth.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Explore your neighboring community greenway and trail systems and plans**, identifying geographic areas of common interest.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Develop cooperative agreements** to work together to connect and manage trails crossing political boundaries.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Involve regional public land management agencies** such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the USDA Forest Service.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Seek funding cooperatively** to implement your project.

✓ Build a Greenway in Every Community

- ◇ Throughout the region, community greenways and trails projects are beginning to transform the landscape. Merely a decade ago, the concept of urban greenways was widely unknown. Communities like Kingsport and Erwin have since inspired the region to develop paths, providing recreation outlets for a wider range of outdoor enthusiasts. Greenway projects are now dotting our regional landscape. Local communities still need help realizing their greenway potential.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Identify and implement a Pilot Project** in the region as an example of how to build a successful greenway
 - ◆ ACTION: **Work with local leaders** to promote the benefits of greenways
 - ◆ ACTION: **Provide greenways and trails technical assistance** to local communities

✓ Support Greenways & Trails as Alternative Transportation

- ◇ Today's regional transportation system is primarily based on the use of the automobile. Safe transportation routes for bicyclists and pedestrians are non-existent in most of our communities. To bike to work is often putting your life on the line. With the price of gasoline skyrocketing, it only makes sense to look at alternatives to our dependence on the automobile. Riding a bike or walking to work and school will not only reduce congestion, but it will help reduce air pollution.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Develop trail infrastructure** that is convenient throughout the community by connecting trails to neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, parks, and commercial centers.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Establish sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes and signage.**
 - ◆ ACTION: **Install bicycle racks** on buses and throughout the community.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian routes** into our local and regional transportation, recreation and land use plans.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Seek federal transportation grants** to implement infrastructure upgrades.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Follow American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards** where appropriate.



Kitty Frazier

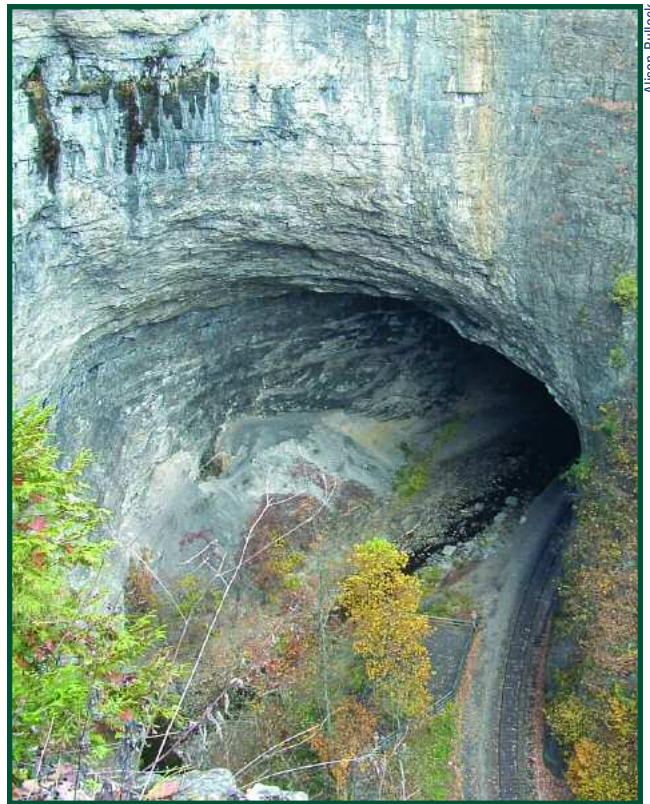
Kingsport Greenbelt

➤ Promote Non-Motorized Trail Development

- ◊ Whether a shared use trail in an urban park or deep in the woods, or individual use trails such as single-track mountain bike trails, equestrian trails, long-distance hiking trails, and nature trails, the demand for recreational trails is growing at a rapid pace.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Develop community plans** for trail development
 - ◆ ACTION: **Seek federal and state recreation and transportation grants** to match local funding for trail construction
 - ◆ ACTION: **Organize trail enthusiasts** into local trail clubs
 - ◆ ACTION: **Create volunteer programs** to build, maintain and patrol trails
 - ◆ ACTION: **Advocate expansion of non-motorized trail opportunities** on state and federal lands.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Ensure trail access for persons with disabilities**

➤ Promote Land Conservation and Smart Growth

- ◊ Urban sprawl continues to fragment our landscape, often eliminating the local habitat of native plants and animals. Fragile ecological communities are threatened by new subdivisions, commercial centers and road construction. Wildlife and plants are becoming isolated in islands of nature.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Promote private land conservation** through the donation of land and conservation easements and land owner tax incentives. The Land of Boone and Crockett Land Trust and The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia are active land trusts in the region that provide land conservation services.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Create a Green Infrastructure** through local smart growth development policies, land dedication ordinances, and community land use plans.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Educate area land developers** about the benefits of green development.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Promote the development of conservation subdivisions** that preserve a significant portion of their total area as common open space by clustering houses on smaller lots and implementing sustainable design concepts such as Open Space Residential Developments.
 - ◆ ACTION: Encourage local leaders to **transfer development rights** to restrict growth in certain areas and direct it to others, while allowing landowners in the growth-restricted areas to realize an economic benefit from their land.



Alison Bullock

Natural Tunnel State Park, Virginia

➤ Promote Safe Routes to School

- ◊ Childhood obesity rates are growing at an alarming rate, with 22% of our youth now considered obese. The bottom line is that our children are not getting enough physical activity. Researchers estimate that two-thirds of all children walked or biked to schools just 30 years ago. Today, that figure is less than 10%.³⁸ Development trends have situated schools away from neighborhoods and community centers, making it more and more difficult for children to walk or bike to school. We lack sidewalks, bike lanes and traffic signals that would allow safe access to and from schools. Our society has embraced the automobile.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Endorse better engineering of transportation options** around schools, including construction of bicycle paths and walkways, sidewalks, and safer road crossings. Plan future schools near neighborhoods and population centers.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Adopt slower speed limits** around school zones and educate drivers to be more aware of pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Establish local “Safe Routes to Schools” programs** in each of our communities to teach traffic safety and promote walking and bicycle activities

³⁸ *Safe Routes to Schools*, California Department of Health Services, 2000

✓ Promote Healthy Lifestyles

- ◇ The rate of obesity and related diseases is increasing at an alarming rate. Our lifestyles are becoming more and more sedentary as we rely on automobiles to move us around and the remote control for our entertainment. Our communities lack close-to-home recreation outlets and many of our residents lack the motivation to get outside and exercise.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Partner with local Health Departments and hospitals** to establish community-based walking and fitness programs.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Develop trail infrastructure** that is convenient throughout the community by connecting trails to neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, parks, and commercial centers.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Plan community-wide activities that promote healthy living** and introduce the public to new outdoor recreation facilities and sports such as National Trails Day events, health fairs at local parks, tri-cycle races and walks for health.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Promote local greenways and trails through the media** to highlight health benefits and encourage use.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Tap State and Federal resources** for guidance and funding.

✓ Promote Clean Streams and Rivers

- ◇ The health of our local waterways continue to decline as a result of increased pollutants from agricultural waste and fertilizers, sewage, development and automobiles that reach our water supplies. Riparian zones and wetlands continue to decline, limiting the natural filtration process. Wastewater treatment costs continue to escalate at an alarming rate, while the diversity of aquatic plants and animals continues to be threatened.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Establish local stormwater ordinances** that require developers to adequately control runoff on construction sites and install implement stormwater retention-control methods basins for long-term stormwater management. Encourage the promotion of ecologically friendly treatment solutions such as biofilters and rain gardens.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Institute stream zone protection ordinances** that protect natural vegetation along streambanks, provide stream buffers in urban settings and limit development adjacent to streams and rivers.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Create blueways and water trails** to increase access to our rivers and streams and increase public awareness of water quality.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Limit development in floodplains** and designate floodplain areas as conservation zones, parks or greenways.
 - ◆ **ACTION: Restore streambanks** that have been damaged by development and inappropriate landscaping practices to their natural riparian function.



Kent Akin

ETSU students made trails in Johnson City

✓ **Promote a Sense of Place that protects our region's scenic values, open space, farmlands, and natural and cultural resources**

◇ The Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia area holds many scenic wonders. From rolling hills, pastures, and creeks, to the tall Appalachian mountains, our region's beauty is a jewel that needs protecting. Development continues to escalate in our region – often coined as “progress”. But without protecting our natural heritage, we put the future economic development potential of our communities at risk. Finding the balance between development and conservation is key.

- ◆ **ACTION: Promote private land conservation** through the donation of land and conservation easements. The Land of Boone and Crockett Land Trust and The Land Trust of Southwest Virginia are active land trusts in the region that provide conservation services.
- ◆ **ACTION: Encourage private landowners to protect farms and open space** through greenbelt designations, conservation easements, and life estate agreements.
- ◆ **ACTION: Communicate to regional leaders** about the places that are special and how they contribute to the regional economy.

✓ **Establish Partnerships to promote regional greenway conservation and trail development**

◇ Today's economic times require being resourceful to stretch every dollar to its fullest extent. Partnerships are an essential ingredient in the recipe for a successful greenway project. Whether partnering with public agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), businesses or private citizens, the opportunities for collaboration on greenway projects are unlimited. Regional projects that cross political boundaries require creative partnerships to make them a success.

- ◆ **ACTION: Form regional partnership agreements** among local communities and public land management agencies such as a cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or trail management agreement.
- ◆ **ACTION: Work together** to maximize limited resources and promote trail connections
- ◆ **ACTION: Establish public/private partnerships** by encouraging citizen organizations, non-profits and businesses to get involved
- ◆ **ACTION: Nurture strong coalitions** of private citizens and interest groups to energize the greenway movement
- ◆ **ACTION: Investigate the establishment of a Regional Park or Trail Authority** to oversee trail development on a regional scale.



Tony Delucia

Jonesborough View

✓ Embrace the Eco-Tourism and Heritage Tourism Opportunities of Greenways

- ◇ Trends in the tourism and recreation industries have made nature-based recreation an engine of economic and community development. And studies have consistently shown that cultural heritage travelers stay longer and spend more money than other kinds of travelers. A good cultural heritage tourism program improves the quality of life for residents as well as serving visitors.³⁹
 - ◆ ACTION: Form partnerships with Chambers of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureaus to **promote greenways and trails to tourists**.
 - ◆ ACTION: Save **our cultural and natural treasures** from development through land acquisition and conservation easements.
 - ◆ ACTION: Incorporate local history into our greenway and trail projects through projects like the Quilt Trail and Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

✓ Involve the Public

- ◇ Research shows that public involvement and grassroots support is a key element to successfully implementing local greenway and trail initiatives. Community-wide support encourages local leaders to allocate resources for trails and make greenways a top priority.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Produce regional marketing literature** that promotes the benefits of greenways and trails
 - ◆ ACTION: **Create a tool box of resources** to educate the public about greenways and trails and how to implement them
 - ◆ ACTION: **Launch a regional website** about the greenways and trails initiative, with technical resources and open trails
 - ◆ ACTION: **Establish a speakers bureau** to promote greenways and trails
 - ◆ ACTION: **Coordinate special events** that celebrate greenways and trails



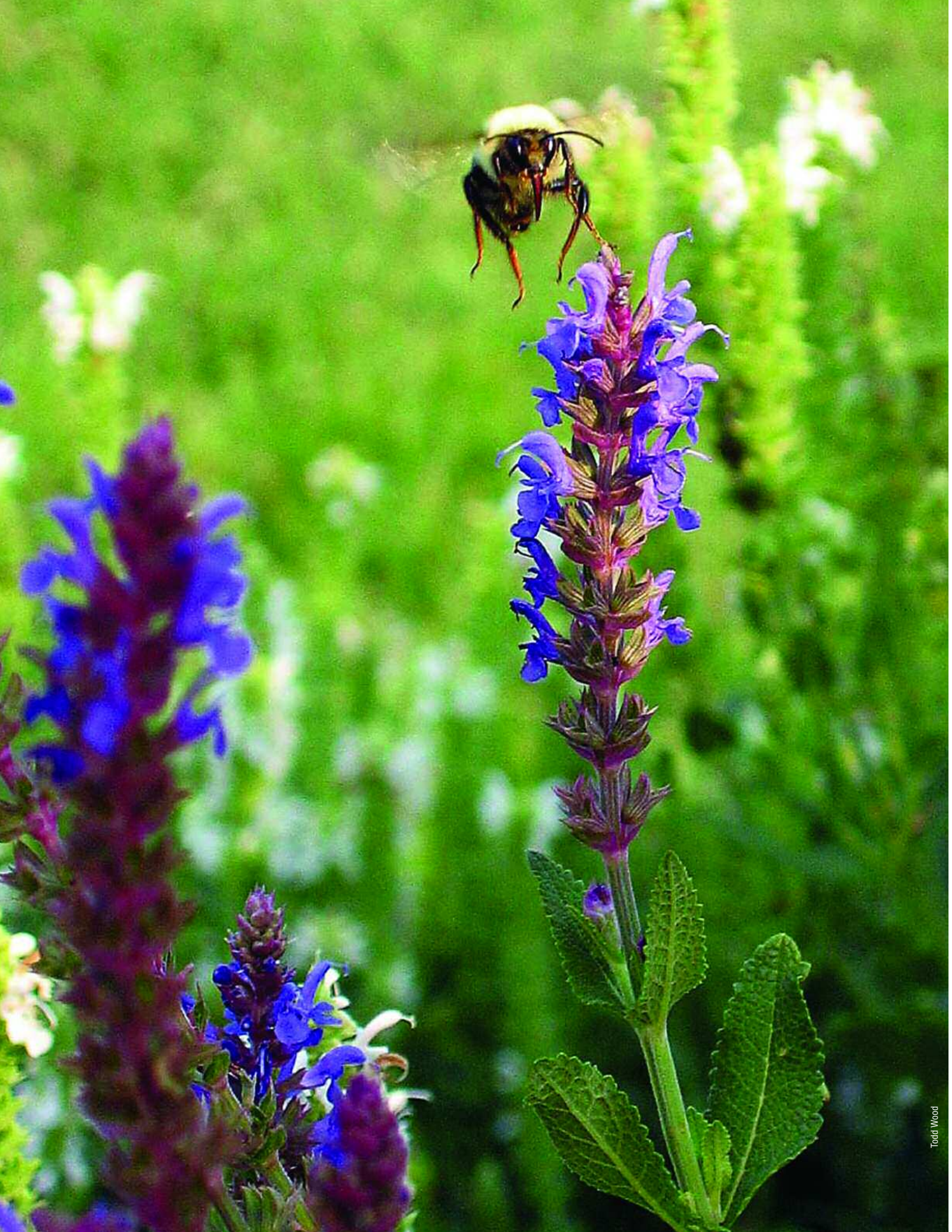
Kitty Frazier

Bays Mountain Trail

✓ Tap Public and Private Funding Sources

- ◇ Funding greenway and trail projects can be challenging for communities of all sizes. It is important that we maximize local funding by securing matching grants through federal, state, foundation and private sources whenever possible.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Explore eligible funding opportunities** (see Appendix B)
 - ◆ ACTION: **Build relationships** with area foundations and corporations to garner private funding for projects.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Prepare local greenway and trail plans** to increase probability of getting financial support.
 - ◆ ACTION: **Utilize the expertise of regional planning agencies**, such as First Tennessee Development District, Tennessee Local Planning Office, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, and Appalachian and Black Diamond RC&Ds to help with advice and/or preparation of grant applications.

³⁹ National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2005.



Chapter 5 – Guide for Implementing Greenways & Trails

Planning for greenways and trails is the easy part. Making them a reality takes persistence, public support and money. A regional greenways and trails network requires that each local government do their part to participate and build trails. This section of the plan will help communities understand the steps of planning and implementing a greenway and trail project.

Regional Implementation

In a study of successful regional greenway systems, *Greenway Implementation in Metropolitan Regions: A Comparative Case Study of North American Examples* (1997) identifies successful ingredients of a greenway project.

“According to our interviewees, the biggest factor in greenway success seems to be commitment, not money...Grassroots support is the hallmark of the greenways movement. However, citizens’ commitment is not enough. Physical implementation is a hybrid of grassroots and ‘higher’ support. Elected officials must join in to deliver the physical reality of a greenway system. Beyond that, the determination and motivation of a leader is critical; local organizers need to bring in key political leaders and continue to demonstrate the leadership throughout the life of the project. The leadership can then provide the structure for people to quickly and creatively make the greenway vision become reality. Out of that commitment by various individuals and groups, another important ingredient emerges – a plan of action agreed upon by these various parties...”

*“...Education of and involvement by the public seems to be two of the most successful tools for greenway implementation. They generate public commitment and help minimize reactionary opposition.”*⁴⁰

Hallmarks of a successful greenways initiative

- ◆ Commitment
- ◆ Education and involvement of both citizens and elected officials
- ◆ Determined and motivated leadership
- ◆ Plan of action

The case study goes on to address the challenges of implementing a regional greenway and trail system, identifying some key issues:

- ◆ **“Cooperation:** Regardless of the institutional structure or the size of the greenway vision, lack of coordination among agencies and organizations seems to be the biggest impediment to effective and timely implementation.”
- ◆ **“Regional Governance Simultaneous with Local Scale Work:** In many places, the lack of a regional governance structure seems to be an enormous barrier. A regional greenway network needs, by definition, a real commitment to regional planning and, in many cases, to growth management. Where these priorities do not exist, greenway networks are more difficult.”
- ◆ **“Funding:** Funding is always a challenge, although not necessarily the primary one. Our research shows that diverse funding sources are preferable and that money follows good ideas.”⁴¹

Greatest Challenges

- ◆ Coordination among regional governments
- ◆ Funding



Nolichucky River

Kent Akin

⁴⁰ *Greenway Implementation in Metropolitan Regions: A Comparative Case Study of North American Examples*, January 1997, The University of Michigan

⁴¹ *Greenway Implementation in Metropolitan Regions: A Comparative Case Study of North American Examples*, January 1997, The University of Michigan

In its query of officials in charge of successful conservation programs, the Trust for Public Land compiled the following advice on funding:

- ◆ *Position the program as bipartisan and non-partisan – transcend party affiliations*
- ◆ *Respond to legitimate concerns*
- ◆ *Be accountable, show solid facts about accomplishments and say how you will spend the money, then report how you spent it*
- ◆ *Choose projects that leverage public funds. Demonstrate use of public dollars as seed money to grow partnerships is appealing in today's climate of careful spending*
- ◆ *Involve willing sellers, private land conservation groups play critical intermediary roles in working out win-win arrangements*
- ◆ *Nurture strong coalitions, find and keep friends.*⁴²

Local Implementation

Locally, we must all do our part to make greenways and trails development a priority in our communities. It is important to understand that all greenways and trails are different. They are locally driven, representing the needs and opportunities of the community and take into account the natural landscape. The following guides can help your community plan successful greenways and trails.



Todd Wood

How to Create Successful Greenways and Trails

Organize

1. Organize a coalition/committee/support group. Accurately record group decisions to avoid rehashing discussions.
2. Seek partnerships/sponsors.

Establish a Vision

3. Dream with other members of your community about what your greenway and trail system could be. Get your community excited about greenways. Two key ingredients for success are visionary leadership and unique natural or cultural feature(s).
4. Define your vision: What river or mountain, stream or historic route are you hoping to preserve and celebrate? Who or what will benefit and what kinds of uses do you want to accommodate?

Evaluate Opportunities

5. Conduct a common sense evaluation. Consider costs, political support, ownership, scale of your greenway or trail project and who could operate and maintain your greenway.
6. Evaluate your community. Review transportation, recreation environmental, utility and open space needs. Review land-use laws and ordinances and local economic development goals. Visit planning departments, local chamber of commerce offices and the convention & visitor's bureau.
7. Inventory and analyze the community and greenway resources.

Sell Your Ideas

8. Build grassroots support. Sell the vision to everyone you can. Speak at community meetings, civic groups, and governmental committee meetings. Incorporate new ideas. Systematically sign up supporters. Successful projects have tremendous community involvement.
9. Integrate your effort into your local government by developing a governmental advisory team.

⁴² *GreenSense*, Autumn 1995, Trust for Public Land

Make Big Plans

10. Involve the public to identify your broad greenway corridor(s) or trails.
11. Map your greenway. Prepare overlay maps that show opportunities for acquisitions or easements. Map land ownership and utility easements, railroad abandonment, existing public lands, other points of interest, water corridors, any land designated as non-buildable because of topography, vegetation or wildlife habitat.
12. Prepare a concept plan that will inspire public support and that offers alternative routes. Present alternatives/conduct public workshops. Sell/adjust your plan.
13. Prepare a master plan and get it approved by your local government commission or council.
14. Develop implementation strategies for your master plan.

Implement

15. Select a pilot project, based on the analysis. Your pilot project should be feasible, funded and built within one year. Select a highly visible and easily accessible pilot project. The purpose of the pilot project is to inspire more greenway and trail accomplishments.
16. Create greenways and trails! Rejoice with every success! Your work will outlive you in the form of beautiful, green places to be treasured by generations to come.

Golden Rules

- ◆ Never identify individual parcels of land or greenway/trail routes unless you have secured an easement, or completed a purchase, or already know that the land is in public ownership.
- ◆ Involve the public through every step of your greenway planning process.

Modified from the Tennessee Greenways & Trails: A Citizen Action Guide

Published by the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, 1996



How to Fund Greenways & Trails

As the states of Tennessee and Virginia have moved forward in planning for recreation and parks and open space issues, the most vocal public recreation issue that has emerged is the development and the need for regional and statewide greenways and trails systems. Citizens across the state want better access to existing trails and new trail development. The issues that arose came from a variety of user groups representing different types of recreation trails, but all agreed on the need for statewide coordination of greenway and trail development. In Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, that concept is being pushed by SAGA.

Coinciding with the demand for these trail opportunities, and Tennessee's statewide recreation planning process, this Northeast Tennessee/Southwest Virginia group has been working to identify resources and potential connections that will establish a regional greenways and trails system. Funding from a variety of sources is available to acquire land and build greenways and trails, and with everyone working together on all levels, SAGA hopes to continue creating opportunities for greenways and trails growth.

To assist local governments and organizations develop greenways and trails, Appendix B outlines available funding sources and contact information in Tennessee and Virginia. Development Districts and Local Planning Offices (Dept. of Economic & Community Development) can assist communities in developing grant applications as needed.

For all of these programs, the Federal government has set criteria with which the states must comply in order to become eligible for funding.

All funding programs are competitive and should be based on highest need. It is important that communities work closely with their state Department of Transportation and local Metropolitan or Rural Transportation Planning Organization to establish bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects as priorities. Various programs have different local match requirements.

Communities seeking federal Transportation Funds must have their project included in the local Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which is approved by the Transportation Planning Organization (formerly Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)) serving their community. Communities that are not in a TPO area are required to have their project listed in the State Transportation Improvement Plan before funding can be awarded. This ensures that transportation officials from throughout the region are informed of your project and that it is coordinated with other transportation improvement projects in the area.

Tennessee and Virginia are fortunate to have substantial funding opportunities for urban greenways and trails, but there are still funding needs that cannot be sufficiently met through existing programs. The greatest need throughout the region continues to be for acquisition funds

to protect our state and local natural and cultural resources and to establish greenway and trail corridors. Funding for planning and design of trails and greenways is especially limited through most existing grant programs, making it difficult, especially in smaller communities, to initiate and implement greenway and trail efforts.

The sustainability of greenways and trails relies on the creation of public/private partnerships. With government agencies downsizing, the support and dedication of trail users and interest groups will be essential to develop, maintain and preserve our state's greenways and trails system. And, in a lot of cases, they also provide some essential funding sources.

Local Funding Strategies

While state and federal grant sources can go a long way toward the development of your local greenway and trail project, local funds are almost always required to support planning, engineering, and acquisition and to match grant dollars. Communities around the country have taken a variety of approaches to fund greenway projects, including:

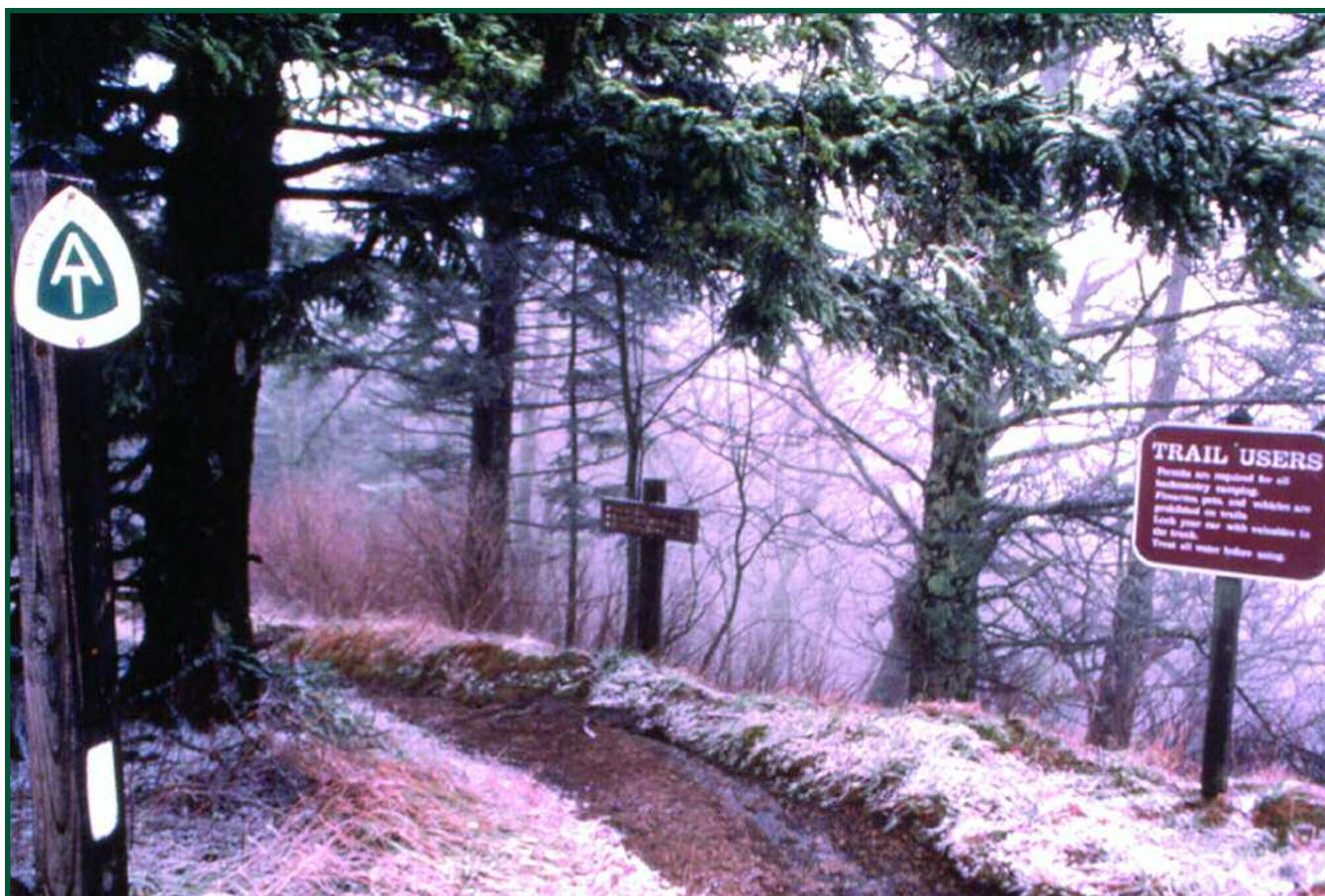
- ◆ **Local capital improvement programs** involve local governments appropriating annual funds for acquisition, development and management of trails. Funds have to be appropriated on an annual basis.
- ◆ **Bond referenda** – “Communities across the nation have successfully placed propositions on local ballots to support funding for trail development... the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, area passed four consecutive referendums in recent years that generated more that \$3 million for trail land acquisition and development.”⁴³



Rodney Baker

Powell River

⁴³ *Trails for the Twenty-First Century: Planning, Design and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails*, by C. Flink, K. Olka and R. Searns, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2001.



Mack Pritchard

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail

- ◆ **Tax increase** – Referendums often called “Penny Taxes” are passing around the country to support open space and public recreation. Taxes are most commonly levied on property or sales. The City of Knoxville, TN recently passed a one cent tax that is expected to generate \$5 million in funding for greenways.
- ◆ Prospective trail developers should **explore other federal and state programs** where greenway and trail projects may qualify for funding through local partnerships, including the Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, Community Development Block Grant Program, Tennessee Industrial Infrastructure Program, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Urban Forestry Program, and the Tennessee Historical Commission.
- ◆ **Fundraising campaign** – Greenways acquisition and development is often supported by local fundraising initiatives. Local businesses, organizations and private citizens are solicited for funding. These efforts can include sponsoring specific amenities, such as a park bench, overlook, wild-flower garden, or be broader to include sponsoring a specific segment of trail. In High Point, North Carolina, a Greenway Buy-A-Foot Campaign raised \$5,000 for their local trail. Trail “Feet” were purchased for \$25. And in Chattanooga, Tennessee, planks of the Walnut Street pedestrian bridge were “sold” for donations to renovate the bridge for pedestrian use. Donors were thanked with a permanent plaque on their board.
- ◆ **Implementation of a park or trail user fee system** can support management and maintenance of trails. This is becoming more common in state and national parks, and is often implemented as a parking fee.
- ◆ **In-kind donation of services** such as volunteer labor, professional services, equipment, supplies, and even land can be applied as a match for some grant programs (check the specific program guidelines of your grant to make sure this is an eligible match). Identify local companies for foundations grant programs, such as Weyerhaeuser and General Shale. Local civic organizations, scout groups and school groups are also great sources of volunteer support.



Chapter 6 – Establishing Regional Connectors

Regional trails and rivers provide connections between communities and key resources. While our local trails are an important asset to our communities, making regional connections will improve opportunities for economic development, recreation, and conservation, while setting the stage for regional coordination of sustainable growth.

Regional connectors include long distance hiking, biking and equestrian trails, blueways (designated water trails), conservation corridors, historic routes, community-to-community greenway and trail connectors and bike routes.

Some of the following regional connectors already exist, such as the Appalachian Trail; whereas, other connectors are envisioned opportunities for future expansion of trails and conservation opportunities in the Southern Appalachians region.

Blueways

Proposed Nolichucky River Blueway – The lower Nolichucky River, between Erwin and the Greeneville Dam, offers paddlers a scenic and inspiring canoe trip. Beginning in Erwin, the river consists largely of Class I-II rapids, with wide shoals and meandering current as it flows through Embreeville in Washington County, TN, and on through Greene County. On the far eastern reach of Greene County, paddlers can overnight at Davy Crockett Birthplace State Historic Park. From there, the proposed blueway continues its scenic course, taking out at the Greeneville Dam on Davy Crockett Reservoir.

Proposed North Fork of Holston Blueway - 2 miles upstream of Hwy 23 Bridge put in at Weber City down to confluence with South Fork of Holston just north of Kingsport. Take out at Greenbelt just above the confluence.

Proposed South Fork of Holston Blueway –
Section 1 - The South Fork of the Holston River flows freely for approximately 10 miles before entering Boone Lake. This stretch of river is a stark contrast to downstream segments, with clear, bright water, playful Class I+ rapids and shoals, and pleasant scenery. Put in at the Weir Dam below South Holston Dam, just above the bridge crossing and take out at the boat ramp in Bluff City.

Section 2 - From the base of Boone Dam to Ft. Patrick Henry Dam, there is approximately a seven mile segment of enjoyable river paddling. Put in at TWRA access at the bridge crossing downstream of the Hwy 75 bridge and take out at Warriors Path State Park.

Section 3 - Put in just downstream of SR 36 Bridge at the TVA access area on the Kingsport side of river to the confluence of South and North Fork at Greenbelt. Additional put in/take outs include under the John B. Dennis Overpass and at River Front Park on the Kingsport Greenbelt.

Proposed Clinch River Blueway (Scott Co.) – The Clinch River Blueway would offer miles of free-flowing river on one of the world’s most endangered aquatic ecosystems. The Clinch River flows through some scenic gorges and has sweeping mountain views. Some sections contain Class I to III rapids. The river offers canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The Nature Conservancy has designated the river as one of the “Last Great Places” in America because it is home to protected species of mussels. The Clinch River flows out of Tazewell County, Virginia through Scott Co. before entering TN. From Clinchport south, the river is navigable year round.

Proposed Powell River Blueway (Lee Co.) - The headwaters of the Powell River are located in Wise County, Virginia, and the river flows approximately 80 miles through Wise and Lee counties before entering Tennessee. Below Big Stone Gap the river becomes wide and slow enough for canoeing and kayaking. Most of the Powell is considered public waters, especially below Big Stone Gap, but public access for canoe and kayak launching is limited. A bridge crossing a river where a canoe or small boat can be slid into the water is a public access, and anglers and floaters do launch and take out at crossings such as US 58, Alternate 58, and VA 421, as well as several secondary roads. Below Big Stone Gap, on the 90-mile trip to the Tennessee state line, the Powell is well suited to floating.

Proposed Watauga River Blueway (Carter Co.)
The lower Watauga River water trail begins below Wilbur Dam, winding through pastoral and wooded areas until it flows into Elizabethton, with a take-out at Elizabethton Linear Park or at the boat ramp on Highway 11E. This section of the river is a very scenic paddling trip with gentle ripples and small shoals, with a difficulty classification of I-II.

Conservation Corridors

Clinch & Powell Rivers – Spanning 2,200 square miles in the remote mountains and valleys of Southwestern Virginia and Northeastern Tennessee, the Clinch Valley comprises the watersheds of the Clinch, Powell, and Holston rivers. These last free-flowing rivers of the Tennessee River system harbor more at-risk fish and mussel species than any other river in the nation and the highest concentration of imperiled species in the mainland United States. The Nature Conservancy is working to ensure the survival of these fragile lands and waters through creative local partnerships designed to enhance water quality, prevent toxic spills, and improve farming practices. Innovative strategies in the region include a pilot project for ecological restoration, reforestation, and carbon sequestration on coal mined lands, as well as a Conservation Forestry Program. The latter initiative fosters partnerships with private landowners to promote the economic productivity of working forests, while protecting the ecological health of the landscapes in which they occur.

Appalachian Trail – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is a volunteer-based, private nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a 250,000-acre greenway extending from Maine to Georgia. Their mission is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the clean air and water, scenic vistas, wildlife and opportunities for simple recreation and renewal along the entire trail corridor.



Kent Akin

Above: Trailhead on Appalachian Trail in Unicoi County. Right: North Indian Creek Greenway, Erwin Tennessee.

Bike Routes

Wilder Route - The State of Tennessee is currently implementing upgrades to Highway 11W from Hawkins County to Bristol, Tennessee, that will make this corridor safer for bicyclists. Known as the Wilder Route, this is part of a state initiative to establish a cross-state bicycle route from Memphis to Bristol.

Wilderness Road Bicycle Route – This proposed bicycle route extends from Cumberland Gap National Historic Park through the southwestern tip of Virginia along Highway 58 to Kingsport, Tennessee. The bike route roughly follows the trail carved by Daniel Boone in April of 1775, passing through Virginia's newly established Wilderness Road State Park and crossing through the scenic Clinch and Powell river valleys.

Johnson City to Jonesborough Connector – The City of Johnson City and the Metropolitan Planning Organization have proposed a bicycle route between Johnson City and Jonesborough that would follow the Old Jonesborough Highway.

Johnson City to Elizabethton Connector – The City of Johnson City and the Metropolitan Planning Organization have proposed a bicycle route along Highway 321 between Johnson City and Elizabethton.

Johnson City to Kingsport Connector – Area transportation planners have proposed a bike route along Highway 36 (Old Kingsport Highway) between Kingsport and Johnson City, Tennessee through Boones Creek.

Erwin to Jonesborough Connector – Area planners have proposed a bike route along Highways 107/81 between Erwin and Jonesborough, Tennessee. This route would take cyclists along the scenic Nolichucky River.



Chris Peterson

Historic Routes

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail –

Stretching 330 miles from Virginia to South Carolina, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail route retraces the 1780 military campaign, which led to the defeat of a British force led by Major Patrick Ferguson at the battle of Kings Mountain. Under the administration of the National Park Service, the trail is still being developed, but some trail segments and associated sites are presently available for public use. Sixty-four miles of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail route lie within the planning boundaries of the Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance. This includes 11 miles stretching south from Abingdon, Virginia to the Tennessee State line, as well as 53 miles within eastern Tennessee.

Wilderness Road – This route roughly follows the trail carved by Daniel Boone in April of 1775 along present day Highway 58 between Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and Kingsport, Tennessee. With road improvements to better accommodate bicycles, this route would make a fabulous bike route.

Greenway/Trail Connectors

Gate City to Kingsport – A proposed connecting trail between Kingsport's Greenbelt and the soon to be developed Moccasin Creek Greenway in Gate City, Virginia. This proposed trail would begin in Gate City and connect to Weber City, then continue south to the North Fork of the Holston River.

Bristol, VA to Abingdon Greenway – A proposed greenway to connect the expanding trail system of Bristol, Virginia, including Sugar Hollow Trail, to Abingdon.

Virginia Creeper to Glade Springs, VA Greenway

– A proposed greenway would connect the existing Virginia Creeper Trail to Glade Springs, Virginia.

Greeneville to Tusculum Greenway – The Town of Greeneville is currently planning their first greenway project in the downtown area. Future plans may establish a connector between downtown Greeneville and Tusculum's existing four mile trail system.

Laurel Creek Trail – From the Virginia State Line to Mountain City, Tennessee along Laurel Creek, this proposed trail would connect Mountain City to the popular Virginia Creeper Trail.

Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail – A 34.1 mile rail-to-trail that extends from the Virginia/North Carolina state line, in the community of Whitetop, northwest to Abingdon. The first 16.5 miles are within Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The remaining portion is managed by the Washington County Park Authority.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail – The Appalachian Trail (AT) spans the entire length of the Southern Appalachian region along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains. From Greene County, Tennessee, the AT passes through Unicoi, Carter and Johnson counties in Tennessee, before entering Washington County, Virginia on a path north to Maine. This hiking trail was first envisioned in the 1930s and today is operated as a unit of the National Park Service.

Buffalo Trace Greenway & Tweetsie Rail-to-Trail –

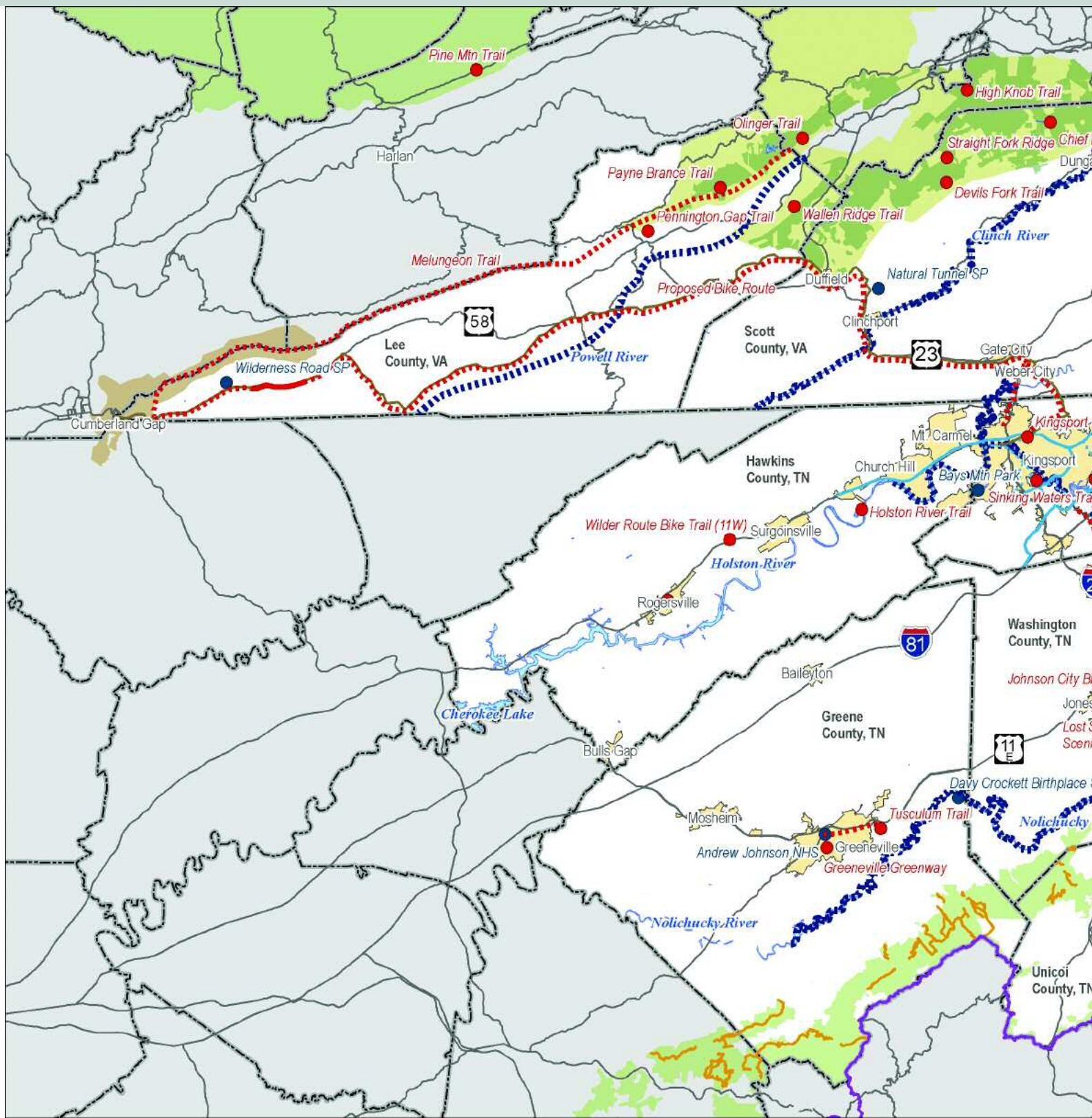
This proposed greenway would largely follow the historic path buffalos once took from Buffalo Mountain to the Watauga River. Beginning at Buffalo Mountain City Park in Johnson City, TN, this multi-use, non-motorized trail would traverse through Tipton Haynes State Historic Site and connect to the Tweetsie Rail Line that has been proposed for abandonment. The rail-to-trail would then connect the Buffalo Trace to Elizabethton's Linear Park along the Watauga River and Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. Carter County owns much of the old Tweetsie rail line from downtown Elizabethton through the Doe River gorge, which in the future could provide a trail connection between Elizabethton, Hampton and Roan Mountain.

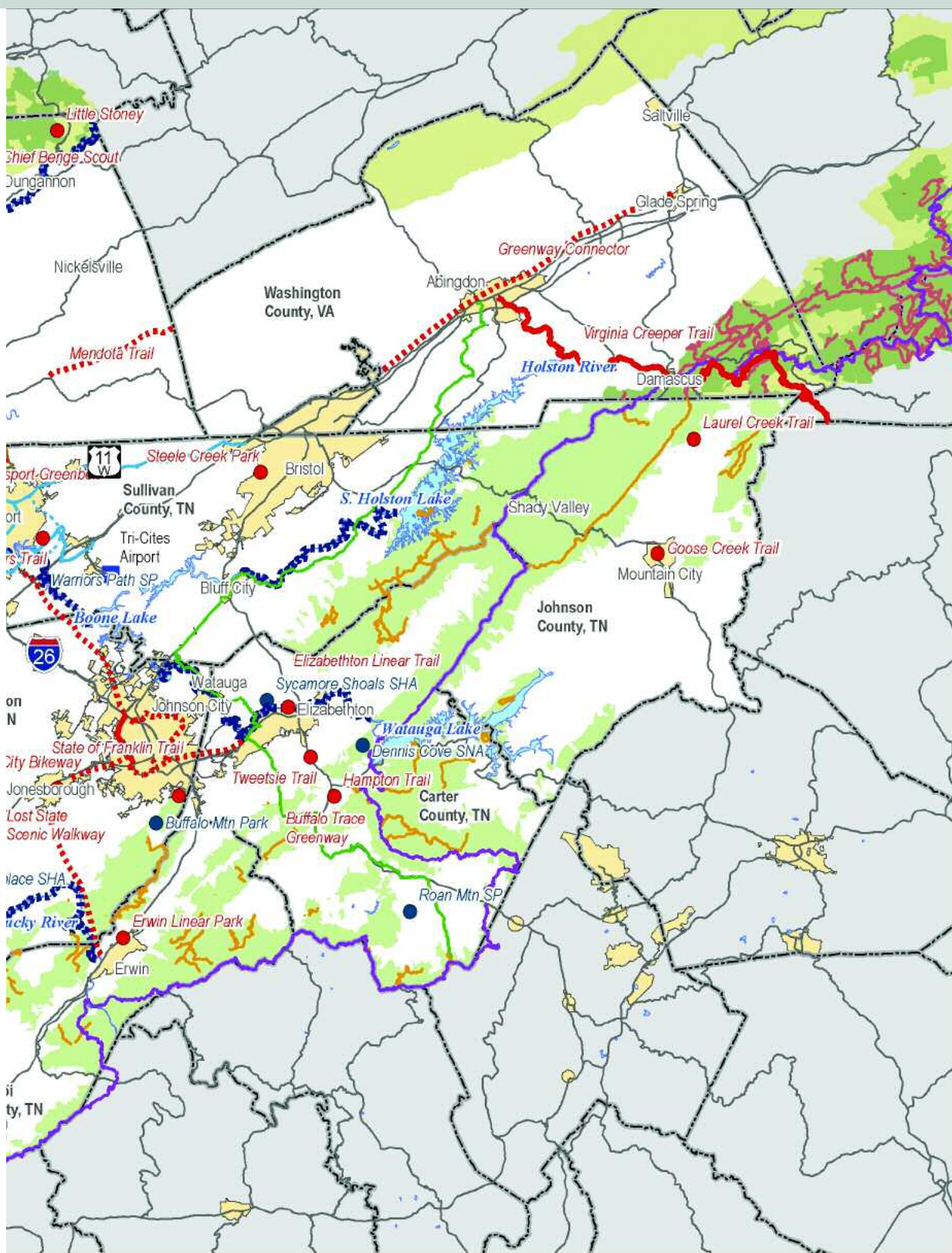
Melungeon Trail (*formerly proposed as the Paradise Trail*) – A proposed hiking trail that would run along the ridge of the northern portion of Lee County, VA near the Kentucky border. This trail would connect the existing Olinger Gap Trail in eastern Lee County near Keokee with the existing Cumberland Gap National Historic Park trail system west of Ewing.

Mendota Rail-to-Trail – The Mendota Trail is a future trail route that follows an old coal and iron narrow gauge railway over 18 trestles from Bristol, VA to Moccasin Gap in Scott County, Virginia. The City of Bristol, Virginia, is currently proposing to build a fourteen mile segment of this trail corridor through Washington County, Virginia. The trail route provides pastoral scenery to the Benhams community, at which point the terrain rivals the scenic beauty found along the Virginia Creeper Trail.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Mendota Trail: Development & Management Plan, December 2000, Washington County, VA


Regional Connectors Map






- Cherokee National Forest
- Cumberland Gap NHP
- Jefferson National Forest
- Mt Rogers NRA
- Appalachian Trail
- Cherokee NF Trails
- Mt Rogers NRA Trails
- D. Boone Wilderness Trail
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- TN State Bicycle Route
- Blueways / Water Trails

Existing
 Proposed



N

Miles



0 9



Landmark
Joining
information
to business
GIS

423-578-7010



Chapter 7 – Saga Implementation Plan

A. Continuation of SAGA – SAGA will

- a. Meet at least quarterly or as needed to serve as a resource for communities
- b. Reactivate Committees and solicit members to develop specific actions and implement goals
- c. Elect leaders to fill vacant positions on the board and conduct outreach to expand SAGA participation
- d. Each SAGA meeting should have an educational workshop or component

B. How to sell to local leaders – SAGA will

- a. Develop primers – literature to educate and train local planning commissioners, parks and recreation boards, and other leaders.
- b. Host a major event/press day to launch the plan.
- c. Seek formal adoption/endorsement by participating Planning Commissions, Park and Recreation Boards, Greenbelt Committees, Local legislative bodies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs) and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)
- d. Stay involved in communities and groups that carry out the mission and vision of the plan
- e. Stay involved with other committees that support the benefits of trails
- f. Assist with organizing local trail clubs and volunteer programs
- g. Work closely with area MPOs and TPOs to adopt the plan and implement alternative transportation recommendations for increasing bicycle and pedestrian opportunities

C. Providing Educational and Technical Assistance – SAGA will

- a. Continue to host regional educational workshops, including a regional conference to be held in Southwest Virginia
 - 1. SAGA will establish a planning committee to assist the Black Diamond RC&D Council with the organization of this conference

- b. Create a media campaign to promote the development of greenways, promote Safe Routes to School, promote healthy living through greenways and trails, promote conservation development, promote land protection, and the economic impacts of greenways and conservation.
 - Establish a messaging program with press releases, an updated powerpoint presentation and a new display (March 06).
 - A short SAGA tag line should be created to include on all press releases and publications that tells what SAGA is about.
- c. Support and assist with the approval and creation of new trails that support the plan within the SAGA scope
- d. Provide assistance to local communities in an advisory capacity, providing referrals, and letters of support for individual grant opportunities, website links. SAGA will also continue to host workshops, training and assist with any trail building in the community on a volunteer basis throughout the SAGA regional territory.
- e. Plan health living community activities and partner with local health organizations on events that promote the use of greenways.
- f. Prepare literature on healthy living from Active Living Research (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)
- g. Develop a website with links to resources and downloadable information such as the plan and educational brochures, along with local trail information websites.
- h. Create sample stormwater, stream zone and conservation subdivision ordinances (these may evolve from theme workshops)
- i. Educate area land developers and promote conservation subdivisions and designs that incorporate greenways
- j. Partner with the Land of Boone and Crockett, The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia, and area watershed alliances to promote private land conservation
- k. Help establish partnerships and agreements between local communities to implement multi-jurisdictional projects
- l. Work with local Convention and Visitor's Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce and federal agencies to promote greenways and trails on a regional level to increase tourism
- m. Establish a list serve to share trail and conservation information with regional participants.
- n. School programs (OVVT)

SAGA ACTION CHART

#	ACTION	Key Elements	Responsible Party	Timeline
1	Resolve SAGA leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue SAGA meetings 	Full meeting quarterly with education content and effort to expand participation in SAGA	Leadership Committee	January 2006
2	Reactivate SAGA Committees			January 2006
3	Distribution of SAGA Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek endorsement from local entities Host Media/Press Day to launch plan to the public and celebrate completion 	Distribution of plan (hard copy, CD and post on the web); Promote to local government organizations, incorporate in to area MPO and RTPO plans. Celebration plan completion with public event.	Marketing Committee	Initiate January 2006 through Spring 2006
4	Create a greenways and trails media campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a messaging program with press releases Update SAGA power-point presentation Create a new SAGA information display Draft a short SAGA tag line to include on all press releases and publication that tells what SAGA is about 	Promote the development of greenways, promote Safe Routes to School, promote healthy living through trails, promote conservation development, promote land protection, highlight the economic impacts of greenways and conservation, etc.	Marketing Committee	March 2006
5	Develop a regional greenways and trails website	Provide links to resources and downloadable information such as the plan and educational brochures, along with local trail information websites	Marketing Committee/Appalachian RC&D	Initiated; major updates to begin immediately
6	Develop educational literature/primers as handouts and to post on the web	Promote the benefits of greenways and trails and address the various issues identified above	Education Committee	Initiate January 2006
7	Help establish partnerships and agreements between local communities to implement multi-jurisdictional projects	Identify key areas where partnerships would enhance ability to link trails	Leadership Committee	Launch January 2006
8	Establish a list serve to share trail and conservation information with regional participants	Create a monthly newsletter to share regional news and educational topics	Marketing Committee	Launch January 2006
9	Partner with area land trusts to promote and facilitate private land conservation	Network with the Land of Boone and Crockett, The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia, and area watershed alliances	Marketing Committee	January 2006

#	ACTION	Key Elements	Responsible Party	Timeline
10	Host Regional Greenways & Trails Education Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan a regional conference to be held in Southwest Virginia Host regular educational workshops on individual topics 	Invite communities from throughout the region, with special focus on including communities from Southwest Virginia. Develop quarterly educational programs on individual topics.	SAGA will establish a planning committee to assist the Black Diamond RC&D Council with the organization of a conference in Southwest Virginia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Committee 	Planning Committee to begin Winter 2006; Conference to take place Spring 2007
11	Provide assistance to local communities in an advisory capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide referrals and letters of support for grant opportunities Provide website links Host educational workshops and training Assist with trail building in the region on a volunteer basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist communities with building local volunteer capacity and trail clubs; Help communities garner grant funds by being part of a regional effort 	Leadership Committee	Launch January 2006
12	Promote healthy living through greenways and trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate healthy living activities and partner with local health organizations on events that promote the use of greenways Prepare literature on healthy living from Active Living Research 	Incorporate greenways and trails into local efforts for healthy living – partner with health departments, schools, park and recreation departments, etc. Pursue support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Education Committee	Launch January 2006
13	Incorporate greenways and trails programs in local schools	Establish opportunities to work with the local schools (such as the Overmountain Victory Trail school education program).	Education Committee	Be ready to launch Fall 2006; prepare and work with schools Spring 2006
14	Create sample ordinances that promote conservation	Educate local communities on the importance of adopting stormwater, stream zone and conservation subdivision ordinances	Education Committee	Initiate June 2006
15	Educate area land developers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide examples of conservation subdivision and their benefits Develop handouts Host workshops for area developers and realtors 	Promote conservation subdivisions and designs that incorporate greenways and responsible sustainable design	Education Committee	June 2006
16	Work with local Convention and Visitor's Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce and federal agencies to promote greenways and trails on a regional level to increase tourism	Promote existing trails, walkable communities, and eco-tourism, incorporate into tourism literature and websites and link to SAGA website	Marketing Committee	June 2006



Appendix A - SAGA Regional Technical Assistance Resources

TENNESSEE

First Tennessee Development District

207 North Boone St., Suite 800
Johnson City, TN 37604
423-928-0224
www.ftdd.org

ECD Local Planning Office

Serving local governments of Tennessee with professional advice and technical assistance to local government planning programs.
Johnson City Office
423-434-6476

Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council

Roy Settle, Project Coordinator
Five Worth Circle, Suite B
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-854-9621
roy@appalachianrccd.org
www.appalachianrccd.org

TDEC- Recreation Educational Services Division

The Recreation Educational Services Division administers technical, planning and financial assistance services to state, local and private providers of public recreation in Tennessee.
Anne Marshall, Chief Consultant
2305 Silverdale Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
423-854-5471
anne.marshall@state.tn.us
Bob Richards, Greenways & Trails Coordinator
615-532-0753
robert.richards@state.tn.us
www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/

VIRGINIA

LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Serving citizens and the local governments of Scott and Lee Counties in Virginia.
P.O. Box 366
Duffield, VA 24244
276-431-2206 or 276-679-2211
www.lenowisco.org

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

Serving citizens and the local governments of Washington County, Virginia
1021 Terrace Drive
Marion, VA 24354
276-783-5103
www.mrpdc.org

Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council

Blaine Delaney, Project Coordinator
383 Highland Drive, Suite 2
Lebanon, VA 24266
276-889-4180
Blaine.Delaney@va.usda.gov
www.blackdiamondrccd.org

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Division of Planning & Recreation Resources
Robert Munson, Environmental Program Manager
203 Governor Street, Suite 326
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-6140
rsmunson@dcr.state.va.us
www.dcr.virginia.gov

Appendix B - SAGA Funding Sources

STATE OF TENNESSEE

Program: **Local Park and Recreation Fund (LPRF)**

Fund Uses: Tennessee local municipal and county governments are eligible to apply for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of park and recreation land and facilities, including recreation trails.

Funds: Averages \$7 million every other year (50% match required)

Contact: Anne Marshall, CPRP, Chief of Recreation & Planning Resources
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Recreation Services Division
2305 Silverdale Road, Johnson City, TN 37601
phone 423.854.5471, e-mail: anne.marshall@state.tn.us
www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/

Federal Programs (Administered by the State of Tennessee)

Program: **EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program (NPS)**

Fund Uses: Tennessee local governments, interstate and intrastate agencies, public and private nonprofit organizations and institutions, and agencies of state government are eligible to apply for funds for:

- **BMP Implementation Projects** improve an impaired waterbody, or prevent a non-impaired water from becoming placed on the 303(d) or 305(b) List.
- **Monitoring Projects.** Up to 20% of the available grant funds assist water quality monitoring efforts in Tennessee streams, both in the state's 5-year watershed monitoring program, and also in performing before-and-after BMP installation, so that water quality improvements can be verified.
- **Educational Projects** funded through TDA-NPS raise public awareness of practical steps that can be taken to eliminate non-point source pollution.

Funds: Funding limits not specified; 40% non-federal match required

Contact: Steve Henegar, Area 8 Regional Administrator
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Water Resources Section
Holeman Building
PO Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204
Cellphone: 423.341.0071 or Email: non.point@state.tn.us
www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/nps/index.html

Program: **Forest Legacy Program**

Fund Uses: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in the 1990 Farm Bill to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and to promote forestland protection through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase.

Funds: Federal appropriations total over \$100 million nationally for FY05

Contact: Paul Deizman
Forest Management, Division of Forestry
P. O. Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
615.837.5437 or Paul.Deizman@state.tn.us
www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml

Program: **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program**

Fund Uses: Acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Awarded to entities with legal responsibility (e.g. state, municipal or county governments) to provide public outdoor recreation.

Funds: Varies annually depending on Congressional appropriation (50% match required)

Contact: Anne Marshall, CPRP, Chief of Recreation & Planning Resources
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Recreation Services Division
2305 Silverdale Road, Johnson City, TN 37601
phone 423.854.5471, e-mail: anne.marshall@state.tn.us
www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/

Program:	Recreation Trails Program (RTP) - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
Fund Uses:	Recreation trail acquisition, development and rehabilitation projects for federal, state and local governments
Funds:	About \$1 million statewide for Tennessee (20% match required)
Contact:	Anne Marshall, CPRP, Chief of Recreation & Planning Resources Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation Recreation Services Division 2305 Silverdale Road, Johnson City, TN 37601 phone 423.854.5471, e-mail: anne.marshall@state.tn.us Bob Richards, Greenways & Trails Coordinator Phone 615.532.0753 e-mail: robert.richards@state.tn.us www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/
Program:	Transportation Enhancement Fund - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
Fund Uses:	City or county governments and other state agencies are eligible to apply to construct non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle trails that provide a transportation alternative
Funds:	\$16 million per year (20% match required)
Contact:	Neil Hansen, Enhancement Coordinator, Tennessee DOT Suite 600, James K. Polk Bldg., Nashville, TN 37243-0341 615.741.4850 or neil.hansen@state.tn.us www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Program:	Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
Fund Uses:	Virginia public agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations are eligible for matching funds for acquisition of land for open space, parks, natural areas, historic areas, farmland and forest preservation. A portion of the fund may be used for developing properties for public use.
Funds:	Not disclosed – funds will be available for 2005
Contact:	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Attn: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation 203 Governor Street, Suite 326 Richmond, VA 23219 Phone: 804.786.3218 or 804.786.2093 www.dcr.state.va.us/vlcf/index.htm
Program:	Virginia Outdoors Fund
Fund Uses:	Grant-in-aid program for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Grants are made to Virginia towns, cities, counties, regional park authorities and state agencies. Includes federal Land & Water Conservation Funds when available.
Funds:	Grant awards from \$50,000 to \$200,000. A 50% match required.
Contact:	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation 203 Governor Street, Suite 326 Richmond, VA 23219 Phone: 804.786.3218 or 804.786.2093 www.dcr.virginia.gov/prr/vof.htm
Program:	VDOT Recreation Access Program
Fund Uses:	To provide adequate access to public recreation facilities or historic sites operated by a Virginia state agency, locality, or local authority. Access can either be provided by an access road or a bicycle facility. Eligible projects include construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or improvement of bikeways that provide access to such public areas. Acquisition of right-of-way not eligible.
Funds:	Up to \$3 million annually
Contact:	Virginia Department of Transportation, Secondary Roads Division 804.786.2744 www.VirginiaDOT.org

Program: **Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC)**
Fund Uses: VTC seeks to advertise and promote bicycling and bicycling events for tourism purposes through the Cooperative Marketing Program and the Matching Grants Marketing Program.
Funds: \$5,000 maximum grant award
Contact: Ralph H. Earnhardt, Grants Administrator
804.371.0048 or email rearnhardt@virginia.org
www.vatc.org/development/coop/coop2.htm

Federal Programs (Administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia)

Program: **Forest Legacy**
Fund Uses: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was established in the 1990 Farm Bill to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and to promote forestland protection through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase.
Funds: Federal appropriations total over \$100 million nationally for FY05
Contact: Mike Foreman, Dept. of Forestry, Fontaine Research Park
900 Natural Resources Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903
804.977.6555 or michael.foreman@dof.virginia.gov
www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml

Program: **Recreation Trails Program (RTP) - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**
Fund Uses: Recreation trail acquisition, development and rehabilitation projects for federal, state and local governments and private organizations
Funds: About \$1 million statewide for Virginia in 2004, pending reauthorization in 2005; (20% match required)
Contact: Virginia Recreation Trails Fund Program
Grant Administrator
Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street, Suite 326
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2010

Program: **Transportation Enhancement Fund - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**
Fund Uses: City or county governments and other state agencies are eligible to apply to construct non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle trails that provide a transportation alternative
Funds: \$18.5 million per year through 2004, pending reauthorization in 2005 (20% match required)
Contact: Michael A. Estes, Enhancement Coordinator
Local Assistance Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Phone: 800.444.7832
<http://virginiadot.org/projects/pr-enhancegrants.asp>

Program: **Virginia Scenic Byways Program**
Fund Uses: Grants for construction of facilities along a Virginia scenic byway for the use of bicyclists and pedestrians.
Funds: Approximately \$400,000 available in Virginia (pending reauthorization of TEA-21).
Contact: VDOT Byway Coordinator at 804.371.6820
www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/faq-byways.asp

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Program: **National Park Service – Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail**

Fund Uses: Provides Overmountain Victory Trail (OVVT) partners funds to complete sections of the OVVT, upgrade existing OVVT and advance interpretive and preservation goals for the trail.

Funds: Grants typically range from \$500-5,000; 50% non-federal cost-sharing required.

Contact: Paul Carson, Superintendent
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
2635 Park Road
Blacksburg, SC 29702
paul_carson@nps.gov or 864.936.3477

Program: **National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)**

Funds: Not a financial grant program. RTCA provides technical assistance only for projects that promote a network of parks, rivers, trails, greenways and open spaces.

Contact: Alison B. Bullock (Tennessee)
423.266.2359 or alison_bullock@nps.gov
Ursula Lemanski (Virginia)
304.535.4018 or ursula_lemanski@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/rtca/

FOUNDATIONS, NON-PROFIT & CORPORATE GRANT PROGRAMS

Program: **Disabled Access and Recreational Funding**

Fund Uses: Initiatives designed to gain greater access for the disabled in society and in recreational opportunities

Funds: Not specified

Contact: Arthur B. Schultz Foundation
www.absfoundation.org

Program: **Eastman Kodak American Greenways Award Program**

Fund Uses: Grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways

Funds: Grants range from \$500-\$2500.

Contact: Leigh Anne McDonald, Coordinator
American Greenways Program
The Conservation fund
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120
Arlington, VA 22209
703.525.6300 or lmcdonald@conservationfund.org
www.conservationfund.org

Program: **Eastman Kodak Photo Voice Awards**

Fund Uses: Cameras provided to local communities that use photography to give “voice” to a community’s visions, goals and aspirations.

Funds: Up to 300 recyclable cameras per community

Contact: Leigh Anne McDonald, Coordinator
American Greenways Program
The Conservation Fund
1800 North Kent Street, Ste. 1120
Arlington, VA 22209
703.525.6300 or Lmcdonald@conservationfund.org
www.conservationfund.org

Program:	Fish American Foundation Grant
Fund Uses:	Funding given to public and private organizations for projects that enhance or conserve water and fisheries resources, including community efforts, which thereby increase the opportunity for sportfishing success.
Funds:	Grant is approximately \$10,000
Contact:	Fish America Foundation 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 320 Washington, DC 20007 www.fishamerica.org/faf/grants/index.html
Program:	Home Depot – Community Impact Grants
Fund Uses:	Funding given to non profit organizations who engage volunteers to construct, refurbish, and maintain play spaces such as parks and trails.
Funds:	Up to \$3000 available through an online application process
Contact:	www.homedepot.com
Program:	Land Trust Alliance: Collaborative Grants Program for Watershed Protection Planning
Fund Uses:	For demonstration partnership projects between land trusts and watershed associations in the Southeastern United States. For formation of alliances and design of comprehensive strategic plans for land and water protection in critical watershed areas.
Program:	Not specified
Contact:	Land Trust Alliance – Southeastern Program PO Box 33355 Raleigh, NC 27636-3355 Frank McKay at 919.424.4427 or southeast@lta.org www.lta.org/resources/ltagrants.htm
Program:	Merck Family Fund
Fund Uses:	Protecting and Restoring Vital Eastern Ecosystems specific to the Southern Appalachian spruce fir and hardwood forests of TN, NC, KY, SC, GA and VA.
Funds:	In 2004, grant awards ranged from \$1,000-\$250,000. Letters of inquiry are accepted at any time. Proposals are by invitation with two funding cycles per year.
Contact:	303 Adams Street, Milton, MA 02186 617.696.3580 or merck@merckff.org www.merckff.org
Program:	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program
Fund Uses:	Public and private entities are eligible to apply for support for community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities.
Funds:	\$5,000 to \$20,000
Contact:	www.nfwf.org or email: sarah.ellgen@nfwf.org

Program:	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) “Restore Our Southern Rivers” Challenge Grant Program
Fund Uses:	To conduct in-stream and riparian restoration work in the Southeast. Eligible projects: Restore, protect, and enhance riparian areas and other valuable multi-species wildlife habitat; Create direct or indirect benefits to water quality; Develop public-private partnerships to creatively address resource challenges; Educate citizens and community leaders to increase environmental stewardship and support economic sustainability; Utilize community-based approaches to environmental stewardship; Demonstrate practical ways for landowners to integrate economic development objectives and environmentally sensitive land management practices.
Funds:	\$300,000 awarded in 2004
Contact:	Joe DeVivo, Assistant Director, Southern Regional Office National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30345 Office: 404.679.7120, Email: devivo@nfwf.org www.nfwf.org/programs/ROSR_RFP.htm
Program:	National Forest Foundation (NFF) – Community Assistance Program
Fund Uses:	The program will support newly-forming and re-organizing nonprofit organizations in need of capacity-building that intend to proactively and inclusively engage the local community in forest management and conservation issues on and around national forests. The NFF CAP will support the organizational and technical assistance needs of newly-forming multiparty groups that act as problem-solvers, bringing diverse members of the community together to address specific issues related to community-based forest stewardship, recreation, watershed restoration, and wildlife habitat, through constructive dialogue and hands-on involvement.
Funds:	Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000
Contact:	Alexandra Kenny 202.298.6740 or email: akenny@naltforests.org www.natlforests.org/consp_01_grant.html
Program:	National Forest Foundation (NFF) – Matching Awards Program
Fund Uses:	Provides grants requiring a non-federal cash match for conservation projects on and around National Forests. Projects must involve one of NFF’s four program areas – community-based forestry, watershed health & restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation. Projects must be action-oriented and enhance the viability of natural resources while considering benefits to, and the involvement of, surrounding communities.
Funds:	\$2.6 million is available nationally for distribution in 2005. Grant awards range from \$500 to over \$100,000
Contact:	Alexandra Kenny 202.298.6740 or email: akenny@naltforests.org www.natlforests.org/consp_01_grant.html
Program:	Patagonia Environmental Grants
Fund Uses:	Support for small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas. We look for innovative groups that produce measurable results, and we like to support efforts to force the government to abide by its own - our own - laws. We help local groups working to protect local habitat, and think the individual battles to protect a specific stand of forest, stretch of river or indigenous wild species are the most effective in raising more complicated issues in the public mind, particularly those of biodiversity and ecosystem protection.
Funds:	Most grants range from \$3,000 to \$8,000
Contact:	Lisa Pike, Patagonia, Inc. PO Box 150, Ventura, CA 93002 www.patagonia.com/enviro/enviro_grants.shtml

Program: **Tennessee State Park Connections Grant**
Fund Uses: All appropriate expenses to complete a greenway or trail project to or in a state park or natural area of Tennessee.
Funds: Grants range from \$500-\$2,500 and require match
Contact: Kathleen Williams, Director
Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation
1205-A Linden Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212
615.386.3171 or tenngreen@earthlink.net
www.tenngreen.org/stateparks.htm

Program: **Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) Grants**
Fund Uses: Grants in the Virginia Program are focused on water quality research and monitoring of water quality conditions; land and open space conservation. Mini-grants are also available to Virginia universities, citizen groups, public agencies, schools and conservation organizations to improve the quality of the environment through education.
Funds: Virginia Program grants not specified; \$1,000-\$5,000 for minigrants
For 2005 applications due June 15th and December 1st
Contact: Gerald P. McCarthy, Executive Director
PO Box 790
Richmond, VA 23218-0790
804.644.5000 or www.vee.org

Program: **Walmart Community Grant Program**
Fund Uses: Grants to local nonprofit organizations
Funds: Up to \$1,000
Contact: See the Community Involvement Coordinator at your local Wal-Mart or Sam's Club store.

Program: **Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation Community Giving Grant**
Fund Uses: Grants to non-profit organizations and public entities located within 50 miles from a Weyerhaeuser facility (Kingsport), depending on each local advisory committee's focus.
Funds: Not specified
Contact: www.weyerhaeuser.com/citizenship/philanthropy/communitygiving.asp

LOCAL PROGRAMS

Program: **Fund for Greene County**
Fund Uses: Grants to organizations that reside within and serve the residents of Greene County for projects or programs that address and solve community issues and challenges with innovative designs.
Funds: Not specified
Contact: East Tennessee Foundation
Terry Holley, 877-524-1223 or tholley@etf.org

Program: **Harris Fund for Washington County**
Fund Uses: Grants to tax exempt organizations in Washington County, Tennessee, to support innovative programs that will benefit Washington County and its people. The Fund encourages create use of area resources and promotes the improvement of the quality of life of Washington County residents. Emphasis on projects that support community or economic development, historic preservation, and/or environmental enhancement.
Funds: \$500 to \$5,000
Contact: East Tennessee Foundation
Terry Holley, 877-524-1223 or tholley@etf.org

Program: **Kingsport Community Foundation**
Fund Uses: Grants to established organizations located in the Greater Kingsport Community that are tax exempt. Focus on projects that encompass two or more of the following areas: 1) arts/culture, 2) education/literacy, 3) health/wellness.
Funds: \$500 to \$2,000
Contact: Kingsport Community Foundation c/o East Tennessee Foundation
Terry Holley, 877-524-1223 or tholley@etf.org

FUNDING AND GRANT DIRECTORIES

Name: **Environmental Grantmakers Association Directory**
Contact: Grantmakers Association
1290 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 3450
New York, NY 10104
212.373.4260 or www.ega.org

Name: **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**
Contact: Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Staff
General Services Administration
300 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20407
www.gsa.gov/fdac

Name: **National Trails System Sourcebook for Federal, State and Foundation Assistance, September 1999**
Contact: National Center for Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service MS-3622
1849 C Street
Washington, DC 20013-7127
202.565.1200

Name: **Directory of Funding Sources for Grassroots River and Watershed Conservation Groups**
Contact: River Network
520 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1130
Portland, OR 97204-1535
503.241.3506 or
www.rivernetwork.org/library/index.cfm?doc_id+114

Name: **EPA Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection, 2002**
Contact: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>

Appendix C - SAGA Greenways & Trails Internet Resources

Regional Trails Information

Appalachian Trail Conference – www.appalachiantrail.org
Bays Mountain (Kingsport) Trails – www.baysmountain.com
Buffalo Mountain (Johnson City) Trails - www.etsu.edu/biology/friendsfnature/BMP/trail_map.htm
Cherokee National Forest – www.fs.fed.us/r8/cherokee/recreation/trails
Jefferson National Forest Trails - www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/recreation/index.shtml
Johnson County Trails Association - www.johnsoncountyltrails.org
Kingsport Greenbelt – www.kingsportgreenbelt.com
Mendota Trail - www.mendotatrail.org/
Mountain Bike Trail listing - www.singletracks.com
Steele Creek Nature Center Trails (Bristol, TN)- www.bristoltn.org/parks/Nature20%center.html
Tennessee Bicycle Routes - www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeroutes/
Tennessee State Parks – www.state.tn.us/environment/parks
Tennessee Equestrian Trails – www.picktnproducts.org/horses/trails.html
Tennessee Greenways & Trails Inventory – www2.state.tn.us/tdec/GREENWAYS/tnmap.htm
Tennessee Horseman – www.tnhorseman.com
Virginia Bicycle & Walking Trail Information - <http://virginiadot.org/infoervice/bk-default.asp>
Virginia Bike Federation – www.vabike.org
Virginia Creeper Trail Club – www.vacreepertrail.org
Virginia State Parks – www.dcr.state.va/parks/
Virginia Trails - www.virginiatrails.org/

Regional Organizations and Resources

Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council – www.appalachianrccd.org
Appalachian Trail Conservancy – www.appalachiantrail.org
Appalachian Trail Conservancy Land Trust - www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/tatl/
Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council - www.blackdiamondrccd.org
Boone Watershed Partnership - www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/6411
Friends of Steele Creek - www.friendsofsteelecreek.org
Greeneville Hiking Club – <http://greenevillehikers.xtn.net/>
Kingsport Parks & Recreation Department - www.Kingsportparksandrecreation.org
Kingsport Tomorrow - www.kingsporttomorrow.org
Land of Boone & Crockett Regional Land Trust – www.appalachianrccd.org
The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia - www.thelandtrustforswva.org/
National Park Service – Overmountain Victory Trail - www.nps.gov/ovvi
Northeast Tennessee Mountain Bike Association - www.ntmba.org
Overmountain Victory Trail Association - www.ovta.org
Scott County (VA) Regional Horse Association – www.schorse.org
Southeast Watershed Forum - www.southeastwaterforum.org/
Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition - www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai.html
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy – www.appalachian.org
Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative – www.samab.org
Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoe Club – www.tectn.org
Upper Tennessee River Roundtable - www.upperrnriver.org

Tennessee Resources

Land Trust for Tennessee – www.landtrusttn.org
Tennessee Conservation League – www.conservetn.com
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
 Division of Natural Heritage – www.tdec.net/nh
 Division of Water Pollution Control – www.tdec.net/wpc
 Recreation Educational Services Division – www.tdec.net/recreation
Tennessee Department of Transportation – www.tdot.state.tn.us
Tennessee Division of Forestry – www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry

Tennessee Greenways & Trails Program – www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation
Tennessee Horse Council – www.tnhorsecouncil.com
Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation – www.tennngreen.org
Tennessee Rivers Assessment – www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/riv
Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association – www.paddletsra.org
Tennessee State Parks – www.state.tn.us/environment/parks
Tennessee State Recreation Plan – www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/plan
Tennessee Trails Association – www.tennesseetrails.org
Tennessee Urban Forestry Council – www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry.tdfuf.html
Tennessee Wetlands Strategy – www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/wetlands/
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency – www.state.tn.us/twra/

Virginia Resources

Bike Walk Virginia – www.bikewalkvirginia.org
Land Trust of Virginia - www.landtrustva.org
Virginia Bicycle & Pedestrian Program (VDOT) - <http://virginiadot.org/infoservice/bk-proginfo.asp>
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation – www.dcr.state.va/prr/trails.htm
Virginia Department of Forestry – www.dof.virginia.gov
Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries – www.dgif.virginia.gov
Virginia Greenways and Trails Toolbox: A How-To Guide for the Organization, Planning and Development of Local Greenway & Trail Programs in Virginia – www.dcr.virginia.gov/prr/docs/toolbox.pdf
Virginia Horse Council - www.virginiahorsecouncil.org/
Virginia Outdoors Foundation – www.dcr.virginia.gov/olc
Virginia Outdoors Plan – www.dcr.state.va.us/prr/vopfiles.htm
Virginia Recreation and Park Society - www.vwc.edu/vrps/home.htm
Virginia Tourism Corporation – www.vatc.org
Virginia United Land Trusts – www.dcr.virginia.gov/olc/tools02f.htm

National Greenways & Trails Resources

American Canoe Association – www.acanet.org
American Farmland Trust – www.farmland.org
American Forests – City Green Program - www.americanforests.org/productsandpubs/citygreen/
American Hiking Society – www.americanhiking.org
American Horse Council – www.horsecouncil.org
American Rivers – www.amrivers.org
American Trails – www.americantrails.org
America Walks – www.americawalks.org
American Whitewater - www.americanwhitewater.org
AmeriCorps volunteers – www.americorps.org
Beneficial Designs (trail accessibility) – www.beneficialdesigns.com
Bicycle Federation of America – www.bikefed.org
Center for Watershed Protection - www.cwp.org
The Conservation Fund – American Greenways Program – www.conservationfund.org
Green Infrastructure - www.greeninfrastructure.net
International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) – www.imba.com
Land Trust Alliance – www.lta.org
Leave No Trace – www.lnt.org
National Center for Bicycling & Walking – www.bikewalk.org
National Clearinghouse on Greenways & Trails – www.trailsandgreenways.org
National Recreation & Parks Association – www.nrpa.org
National Trail Training Partnership - www.nttp.net
National Trust for Historic Preservation – www.nationaltrust.org
The Nature Conservancy – <http://nature.org>
Path Foundation – www.pathfoundation.org
Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center – www.walkinginfo.org
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – www.railtrails.org

River Network – www.rivernetwork.org
Smart Growth America - www.smartgrowthamerica.org
Surface Transportation Policy Project – <http://transact.org>
Tread Lightly, Inc. – www.treadlightly.org
Trust for Public Land – www.tpl.org
Walkable Communities, Inc. – www.walkable.org

Federal Resources

Federal Highway Administration – www.fhwa.dot.gov
Federal Highway Administration’s Free Trail Publications Site - www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/publications.htm
Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Safety – Safe Routes to School Initiative – <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – www.nhtsa.dot.gov/
National Register of Historic Places – www.cr.nps.gov/nr/
Scenic Byways Program – www.byways.org
Tennessee Valley Authority – www.tva.gov
U.S. Access Board (accessibility) – www.access-board.gov
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – www.fws.gov
USDA Forest Service – www.fs.fed.us
Cherokee National Forest – www.fs.fed.us/r8/cherokee/recreation/trails
Jefferson National Forest – www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/recreation/index.shtml
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service – www.nrcs.usda.gov

Funding and Technical Assistance Sources

AmeriCorps – www.americorps.org
Federal Highway Administration – Transportation Enhancement Funds– www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/index.htm
Federal Preservation Grants – www.tennessee.gov/environment/hist/presgrnt.php
Forest Legacy Program - www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml
IMBA Trail Care Crew – www.imba.org
Kodak American Greenways Grant Program – www.conservationfund.org
National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program – www.nps.gov/rtca
Tennessee Department of Agriculture – 319 Nonpoint Source Program – www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/nps.index.html
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation – Recreation Trail Grants, Local
Park & Recreation Fund grants, Land & Water Conservation Fund grants – www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation
Tennessee Department of Transportation – Enhancement Grants Program – www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm
Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation – www.tenngreen.org/stateparks.htm
Virginia Department of Transportation - Enhancement Grants Program - <http://virginiadot.org/projects/pr-enhancegrants.asp>
Virginia Environmental Endowment – www.vee.org
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation – www.dcr.state.va.us/index.htm
Watershed Action Grants – www.conservationfund.org

Health Initiative Resources

Active Living by Design – www.activelivingbydesign.org
America on the Move – www.americaonthemove.org
America’s Walking – www.pbs.org/americaswalking
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/physical/index.htm
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity – www.ncppa.org
National Association for Health & Fitness – www.physicalfitness.org
President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports – www.fitness.gov
Shape Up America – www.shapeup.org

Appendix D - Conservation & Trail Easements

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements can help protect water sources, wildlife habitats, and prime farm and forest land, while also providing relief from urban crowding, protecting historic landscapes, and preserving scenic vistas. Landowners can benefit from donating conservation easements through tax incentives as well as receiving the satisfaction of protecting the environmentally significant features of their property from future development. Land Trusts, through conservation easements, protect a key public good by keeping the land undeveloped and its natural resources protected.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or public agency that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect its conservation values. With a conservation easement, you can permanently protect your land without giving up ownership. You can continue to live on it and use it, and you can sell it or pass it on to heirs.

Conservation easements are tailored to protect the land's conservation values and meet the financial and personal needs of the landowner. In some cases, an easement may apply to just a portion of the property, leaving the option of development open for the remaining part.

Trail Easements

A trail easement is a permanent easement donated by a landowner for the use, development, construction, operation and maintenance of a greenway or trail. The easement insures access by the public for recreational, conservation, and non-motorized transportation purposes such as walking, hiking, bicycling, jogging, running and nature study. Donation of a trail easement benefits landowners by providing direct access to recreation opportunities in their community.

Regional Resources

If you are interested in donating a Conservation or Trail Easement or would like more information about the land trust, contact:

The Lands of Boone and Crockett is a local Land Trust serving Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington & Unicoi counties in Northeast Tennessee in partnership with the Land Trust for Tennessee

The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia serves 12 counties in Southwest Virginia, including Washington, Scott and Lee counties

The Lands of Boone and Crockett

In Care of Appalachian RC&D Council
Five Worth Circle, Suite B
Johnson City, TN 37601
Phone: 423-854-9621 ext. 2
www.appalachianred.org

The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia

Route 3, Box 87, Honaker, VA 24260
info@thelandtrustforswva.org
Phone: 276-889-1299
www.thelandtrustforswva.org



Appendix E - Recommended Readings and Resource Books

Greenways for America



By Charles E. Little. This is the first comprehensive book on greenways. The book discusses the origins and history of greenways as well as detailing their environmental, economic, recreational and social benefits. Model projects from coast-to-coast are outlined and described. 1990

Price \$20.00 (softcover)

Available from the Conservation Fund www.conservationfund.org or 703-525-6300

Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design, and Development



by Charles A. Flink and Robert M. Searns, 1993

A “soup-to-nuts” guide to the practical issues involved in planning and designing greenways and trails. It offers guidance on the overall process of greenway creation while detailing each step along the way. Explains topics such as land acquisition and trail design, development and maintenance, safety and liability, public relations and mapping, organizing volunteers and managing multi-user conflicts. (\$30.00 hardcover)

Available from the Conservation Fund www.conservationfund.org or 703-525-6300

Trails for the Twenty-First Century: Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails

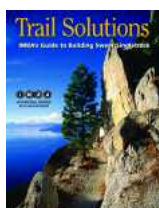


by Charles A. Flink, Kristine Olka and Robert M. Searns, 2001

Trails for the Twenty-First Century is a step-by-step guide to all aspects of the planning, design and management of multi-use trails. Originally published in 1993, this completely revised and updated edition offers a wealth of new information. (\$29.95 softcover)

Available from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy <http://railtrails.tranguard.com/>

Trail Solutions: IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack



By International Mountain Bike Association, 2004

Trail Solutions is IMBA's premier trailbuilding resource. This 272-page book combines cutting-edge trailbuilding techniques with proven fundamentals in a colorful, easy-to-read format. (\$30 for IMBA members, \$35 for non-member) www.imba.org

Appalachian Trail: Design, Construction and Maintenance

By William Birchard, Jr. and Robert Proudman, 2000

Appalachian Trail Conservancy \$14.95 softcover www.atctrailstore.org

Greenways: America's Natural Connections A Video Primer

This video focuses on the economic, social and environmental benefits of greenways. It is narrated by Ed McMahon, past Vice President of Sustainable Programs at The Conservation Fund, and it is ideal for showing to local officials, business groups and civic organizations. The video is approximately 8 minutes in length, and it is priced at \$20.00.

Available from the Conservation Fund www.conservationfund.org or 703-525-6300

Tennessee Greenways & Trails Plan, 2001

Available from the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Recreation Educational Services Division for **free** while quantities last

Contact 615-532-0748 or email Bob Richards at robert.richards@state.tn.us

The Virginia Greenways and Trails Toolbox

Downloadable at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/prr/greenway.htm>

Appendix F - 2003-2004 SAGA Public Survey Results

Disclaimer: This data is based on a non-random distribution of surveys at five public meetings around the region. 72 surveys were received from residents of eleven area counties. The data is merely a reflection of a trend of opinions in the region and not statistically significance.

Ranking of how participants use regional and community trails and greenways

- 53% of respondents ranked walking trails as their number one use of trails
- 28% of respondents ranked hiking trails as their number one use of trails
- 9% of respondents ranked equestrian trails as their number one use of trails
- 3% of respondents ranked running/jogging trails as their number one use of trails
- 3% of respondents ranked on-road bicycling trails as their number one use of trails
- 1% of respondents ranked mountain biking as their number one use of trails
- 1% of respondents ranked water trails/canoeing as their number one use of trails

Types of greenways and trails that participants feel are most needed in their community

- 62.5% of respondents ranked walking trails as the #1 type of trail needed in their community
- 10.9% hiking
- 10.9% equestrian
- 5% on-road bicycling
- 5% water trails/canoeing
- 3% mountain biking
- 3% backpacking

Types of projects participants believe should receive the highest priority for trail development in their community

- 38% creating multiple use trails
- 19% creating day use trails close to home
- 15% creating trail linkages between existing trails
- 15% minimizing environmental impacts
- 4% creating long distance trail loops
- 4% creating single use trails

Types of projects participants believe should receive the highest priority for trail development in the region

- 32% connecting the counties within the region with walking/jogging trails
- 29% connecting the major cities within the region with walking/jogging trails
- 15% connecting cities and communities within the region with sidewalks
- 14% constructing bicycle lanes on roadways throughout the region
- 9% connecting communities within the region by designating on-road bicycle routes

Role of volunteers in trail construction and maintenance

- 74% of respondents believe the role of volunteers in trail construction and maintenance is **very important**
- 21% of respondents believe the role of volunteers in trail construction and maintenance is **somewhat important**
- 5% of respondents believe that government should be able to provide this service

How greenway and trail projects could be funded

- 76% of respondents believe that the cost of greenways and trails projects should be cost shared with Local, State and/or Federal government agencies through grant programs
- 10% of respondents believe that private donations and volunteer labor should be the primary source of funding for local greenway and trail projects.
- 6% of respondents believe that the projects should be paid for by line item in local government budgets
- 4% of respondents believe that the projects should be paid for by issuing local government bonds
- 3% of respondents believe that the projects should be funded through local government tax increases (sales tax, property tax, etc.)

What specific sites or facilities in your community would you like to see connected with greenways or trails?

- ◆ Parks
- ◆ Parks, waterbodies, sensitive environmental sites (i.e. wetlands) with interpretive signage
- ◆ Thru sidewalks, bicycle lanes or roadways and greenways
- ◆ Local walking, bicycle trails - paved - linking historical sites in city of Greeneville - plus use wooded areas to stress wildflowers - nature trails - eventually link with Tusculum Trail
- ◆ Bike trail off the roads like the Creeper
- ◆ Historical and scenic
- ◆ Shopping to National Forests
- ◆ Camp around and parking to include horses
- ◆ Peavine Railroad tracks along the Green? Road in Greene C.
- ◆ Bays Mtn/Meadow View area to Greenbelt along Wilcox Soccer Park to Meadow View area
- ◆ Meadowview area to Greenbelt
- ◆ Neighborhoods
- ◆ Towns
- ◆ Duffield VA to Natural Tunnel State Park to Jefferson National Forest and High Knob Recreation Area (hanging rock, Devil's Fork, etc.)
- ◆ I'd like to see trails throughout Gate City connecting with each other with many points of access
- ◆ Town [Gate City] end to end and then to significant historic sites throughout community
- ◆ Grogan Park to downtown to school to county park to veterans memorial to west end of town to Weber City to Kingsport
- ◆ Grogan Park - Gate City High School - Carter Fold?
- ◆ Grogan Park with Scott County Park
- ◆ Grogan Park w/Scott Co. Park; Gate City to Weber City to Kingsport; Natural Tunnel State Park to Duffield to Daniel Boone Trail; Kilgore Fort House to Bush Mill to Nickelsville
- ◆ Mendota-Hiltons-Moccasin Gap-Gate City-Maybelle Carter Memorial Park - Moccasin Hills County Park
- ◆ Shoemaker Ele; Gate City High; Grogan Park; Downtown sidewalk; county Park & Golf Course; Little Moccasin Creek
- ◆ Combining the greenway with the downtown would be beneficial
- ◆ Natural Tunnel State Park with Jefferson National Forest
- ◆ High Knob area in Scott Co. needs parking and trail development
- ◆ Schools, parks, neighborhoods
- ◆ Park, schools, neighborhoods, shopping
- ◆ I would like to see the Greenbelt connected to more businesses, such as the Fort Henry Mall and to schools in the city
- ◆ Adjoining neighborhoods with existing trails
- ◆ Good progress is being made on our greenbelt. I hope it includes parking near Eastman Rd. and HWY as so much is changing there. It would be good to have emergency phones in some areas.
- ◆ Riverview community - needs trail built
- ◆ Extend Kingsport Greenbelt to Cleek Road and beyond; Connect Bays Mtn. Park to Kingsport Greenbelt; Build walking trail from Ft. Patrick Henry Dam downstream along South Fork of Holston River
- ◆ Damascus to Elizabethton via Roan & Holston Mtns
- ◆ Greenbelt to Bays Mt. Park; Trail to follow Holston River to Bluff City - Extend Greenbelt to 5 caves area (old rock quarry)
- ◆ Make Reedy Creek a canoe trail
- ◆ Link Kingsport Greenbelt to Bays Mtn Park, Create greenways in Colonial Heights/Rock Springs area
- ◆ Development of a combination of public footpaths, greenbelt and designation of right of ways for interlocking existing trails
- ◆ Ft. Henry Mall, Johnson School, Heritage Park
- ◆ Colonial Heights - Kendrick's Creek
- ◆ Fort Henry Mall to Greenbelt; Downtown to Greenbelt; Ridgefields to Greenbelt
- ◆ Ridgefields with Kingsport Greenbelt; Greenbelt with Meadowview and Bays Mt
- ◆ Kingsport- Connect Greenbelt with new soccer fields - go up north fork of Holston River from Greenbelt, extend Bays Mtn. Park trail in Laurel Run through Laurel Run Park
- ◆ Trails, greenways connecting shopping, possibly cut down on driving. Schools to library and YMCA

- ◆ Parks
- ◆ I feel that trails should be connected to neighborhoods - encourage low impact development
- ◆ My interest is in developing water trails in the Upper TN River basin. This is one of our objectives in Upper Tennessee River Roundtable 5-year plan.
- ◆ Dog parks; parks; bodies of water/swimming areas
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Schools and major subdivisions with Creeper Trail; Mendota Trail Completion and Connection
- ◆ Industrial parks such as the innovation lab; something around NE State/Airport
- ◆ Parks, neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas - we have trails that need connecting plus sidewalks in every residential area.
- ◆ I would like to see Gate City, VA, linked with Weber City, VA and possibly continue south to the North Fork of the Holston River. This would be a greenway along Big Moccasin Creek to link communities and towns
- ◆ Schools, parks, neighborhoods
- ◆ Tourism sites
- ◆ Rails to Trails, Big Stone Gap to Appalachia
- ◆ Guest River Gorge in Coeburn; Chief Benge Trail
- ◆ Mountain Empire Community College to existing and planned greenway/Big Cherry Reservoir to downtown Big Stone Gap to greenway trail
- ◆ Riverwalk trail loop around Pound Bottom Loop to access community neighborhood and continue on thru town to school and on to either communities toward Jenkins, Wise and Clintwood - Bike lane could accomplish much
- ◆ Downtown Wise (CBD) with UVA-Wise, downtown to shopping centers, sidewalks, and lighting from college through downtown across Lake St. down hurricane Rd. back to college

Is there anything else that should be considered when planning and developing trails in your community? Please list additional comments.

- ◆ Could use old railroad lines
- ◆ Campgrounds located along regional trail
- ◆ Connections between existing trails and/or parks, encouraging developers to include greenways in planned development, community planning, zoning and redevelopment
- ◆ Nature walks - away from traffic - woods behind Partnership Building (Greeneville) - Greeneville Hiking Club would maintain and help to develop - free labor - willing to work
- ◆ Loops and camping
- ◆ Trails along the area lakes connecting to the cities
- ◆ Develop local interest and backing
- ◆ The thoughts of the people of the community
- ◆ Avoid flood areas; need at least one well-lighted trail or section of trail; benches and water fountains, too; restroom facilities where public facilities are not easily available
- ◆ Need full community education on positive aspects of trails
- ◆ Scales of economy
- ◆ Flood control
- ◆ Involvement of professionals: landscape architects, architects, civil & environmental engineers, parks and recreation directors, town and city planners, etc.
- ◆ Working with VDOT to obtain state assistance
- ◆ Cost; community compliances; selling to Mayor & Council; sensitive to community organization
- ◆ ATV trails
- ◆ Mountain Bike Trails
- ◆ Inform the public, work with local organization. Ex. Scott Co. Regional Horse Assoc.
- ◆ Other recreational facilities (playgrounds, etc.)
- ◆ Family togetherness
- ◆ Environmental impacts and the impact on private land owners
- ◆ Public safety needs to be a primary consideration - in terms of crime, roadways (cars), and dogs that are not restrained
- ◆ You might want marked lanes for walkers vs. bikes and rollerblades. Be sure to have good signs for drivers and hikers whenever roads are crossed.
- ◆ Use public and private funding to purchase land for trails; and use volunteer labor to construct low-impact trails

- ◆ Promote data which shows desirability (land value increase, etc) of greenways and success stories in other areas
- ◆ Helping businesses to see the benefits of greenbelt/pathways
- ◆ Cost to taxpayers
- ◆ Mowing at greenways, tree maintenance needs to be factored into the decision
- ◆ Trails should be off roads as much as possible (painted stripes for walkways area inadequate and unsafe). Sidewalks in residential areas are okay, but not really greenways
- ◆ In the planning and development of trails, all natural resources should be considered
- ◆ Education opportunities for public. My group would like to be involved in water trail development
- ◆ Dog access
- ◆ Landscape maintenance responsibilities
- ◆ Accessible horse trails and mountain bike trails
- ◆ County's Adoption of Comprehensive Pedestrian/Bikeways Plan with VDOT!
- ◆ Continue with link to health, air quality, transportation, quality of life, social capital
- ◆ Trail heads, signage, landscaping, integrating business and residential areas
- ◆ Bike Race Crekers Neck BSG to Crackers Neck Mountain City, TN; Tiathalon- observation knob wim to Friendship Dock Run to Mountain City bike to Big Stone Gap
- ◆ Use and maintain trail already in place
- ◆ Just do it in a reasonable amount of time
- ◆ LENOWISCO Inc - the venture constructing a regional fiber optic network would be willing to co-locate any underground utilities, we acquire ROW with a trail project
- ◆ Bike lanes throughout the area counties could accomplish so much good throughout the area - following Route 23
- ◆ Joint effort between town/county/college

Appendix G - Local Greenways & Trails Narratives

Abingdon (VA)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 17.0

NEW MILES PLANNED: 8.4

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 4

Abingdon is known as a destination involving the famous *Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail* which draws well over 100,000 users annually. This 34.3 mile multi-use trail connects Abingdon to White Top Station VA via Damascus, VA and is open to walking, bicycling, and equestrian uses. While the Creeper Trail is an established success, the vision of the town leaders and planners for land use includes affording both residents and visitors with access to a storied history, neighborly feel, and necessary amenities in a healthy, safe, and caring atmosphere.

Two creekside greenways, Reedy Creek Greenway and Wolf Creek Greenway are proposed as an essential part of the town's 2000 Comprehensive Plan. They constitute an effort to establish the first designated greenways in the area. They are originally intended as backcountry trails, with later potential development as multiuse trail and would contribute several additional miles of protected linear greenspace for the enjoyment of Abingdonians and visitors.



Virginia Creeper Trail in downtown Abingdon, VA
Photo by: Tony Delucia

Abingdon Railway Trail—This rail-with-trail is a proposed two-phase multi-use trail including approximately 1.1 mile of multi-use trail along the Norfolk Southern Railroad right of way with a co-location within the drainage easement for East Main St. Phase I will provide the eastward connection of the Creeper Trail to existing recreational sites such as the county school complex and the Coomes Center. Phase II will provide the westward connection of the Creeper Trail to a small park and greenspace (Cummings St.) and to ultimately to Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) by coursing within the Stone Mill Technology Park.

Reedy Creek Greenway—

The plan for Reedy Creek Greenway is for an original 0.8 mile segment to connect the town's southwest side with the elementary school, in part following the Norfolk Southern Railway right-of-way. Bikeway and railway routings then furnish its interconnectivity to other destinations.

Wolf Creek Greenway—

Wolf Creek Greenway is a more elaborate routing of 1.5 miles and includes the potential for several extensions. It will connect to VHCC through a small greenway segment (entering the Stone Mill Technology Park) where multi-use trails exist and greenspace is already being somewhat protected. It will join the main street system via bikeway and railway routings at its closest proximity to joining Reedy Creek. Wolf Creek Greenway will also provide a direct path to South Holston Lake, approximately 5 miles away and may have a small spur coming from the east with its own point of access.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) has been called the longest continual footpath in the world, crossing ridgetops of the Appalachian Mountain range through 14 states. Of the 2,150 trail miles from Georgia to Maine, more than 150 cross through the northern districts of Cherokee National Forest along the Tennessee-North Carolina borders and into Virginia.

The A.T. began as a grand vision in 1921, proposed by planner-forester Benton MacKaye as “an experiment in regional planning.” In 1968, with the passage of the National Trails System Act, the A.T. became the first National Scenic Trail.

Trail management is coordinated through the Appalachian Trail Conservancy with federal land management agencies and other partners. Volunteers from local trail clubs provide most of the trail maintenance.

Trail Markings: The A.T. is marked for travel in both directions. Markings are white blazes on trees, posts and rocks, positioned so anyone standing at one can see the next one. Side trails to water, shelters and viewpoints are usually blazed with blue paint.

Camping: Shelters are spaced roughly a day’s hike apart along the A.T. corridor. Dispersed camping is allowed throughout Cherokee National Forest, and no permit is required.

Remember: The Appalachian Trail is a foot trail only. Dogs and other pets must be leashed. Limit group size inside Wildernesses; *six or less is best.*



The Appalachian Trail high atop the mountains in East Tennessee. *Photo by: Mack Pritchard, Tennessee State Parks*

For more information:

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)
PO Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
Phone: (304) 535-6331; www.atconf.org

ATC GA/NC/TN Regional Office
P.O. Box 2750, Asheville, NC 28802
Phone: (828) 254-3708

Cherokee National Forest
Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger Station
www.fs.fed.us/r8/cherokee/recreation/trails
Phone: (423) 638-4109

Watauga Ranger Station
Phone: (423) 735-1500

National Park Service
Appalachian National Scenic Trail Office
Harpers Ferry Center
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
304-535-6278

Volunteer Trail Maintaining Clubs
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club,
www.tehcc.org
Carolina Mountain Club,
www.carolinamtnclub.com

Blountville (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: .22

NEW MILES PLANNED: .5

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 1

Blountville Heritage Trail -

As the center of commercial activity and Sullivan County's seat since 1782, Blountville's Historic District represents an important part of the community's heritage and will be a valuable community resource when properly planned, developed and redeveloped. A local movement to rehabilitate and preserve the historic district's structures and sidewalks is infusing new life into Sullivan County. Preserving and building on the investment of previous generations will enhance downtown Blountville. Encompassing Sullivan County's original center of commercial activity, Blountville's Historic District includes the Historic Courthouse of 1853, the Old Deery Inn, the original 1795 Anderson Townhouse and more authentic old log homes along its main street (Great Stage Road) than any other town in Tennessee.



Rendering by Anita Long, local architect, member of the Blountville Historic Zoning Commission and resident of the historic district.



Downtown Blountville is a good example of how an urban trail (sidewalk) can link community points of interest such as, the Historic but fully operational Courthouse, the historic churches, homes, schools, park, businesses and banks to one another. As parking is a premium in any downtown, whether historic or contemporary, sidewalks offer an alternative safe way of doing business in the district. The Heritage Trail is the official name of the cobblestone and stone sidewalks running along both sides of the Great Stage Road/Hwy 126. The trail begins at the Old Mill and Spring Street Park at the bridge over Muddy Creek and down through the central business district and beyond.

Blountville Heritage Trail—Highway 126 Great Stage Road in Blountville's Historic District

Bristol (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 20
NEW MILES PLANNED: 2.8
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 20

Steele Creek Park Trail System -

The Steele Creek Park and Nature Center is home to 19.5 miles of trails roaming the ridges and knobs of this scenic park. With trail opportunities ranging from beginner to advanced, this park offers a wide diversity of hiking and mountain biking experiences.

Permitted Uses: Hiking , walking and bicycling on permitted trails.



Runners enjoy the trails around the lake at Steele Creek Nature Center. Photo by: Roy Settle



West Side Bicycle Trail

West Side Bicycle Trail -

Connecting the Wes Davis Greenway with Steel Creek Park, this project runs along Mill Creek and incorporates a separated path with sidewalk and bike land expansion. Key features include connections with the Wellness Center on West State Street via Shelby Street.

Wes Davis Greenway -

This downtown greenway is an approximately 1/2 mile long, 10 foot wide, paved trail located on an abandoned railroad right-of-way between Anderson and Melrose Streets adjacent to the Bristol City Hall.

Plans are currently underway to develop a “cross-town” route that will connect the Wes Davis Greenway with Steele Creek Park. Part of this project will be developed as a greenway, which will begin at Steele Creek Park and run 1.3 miles along Mill Creek. The remaining 1.5 miles will consist of sidewalk improvements and a bike land along the existing roadway.



Bristol (VA)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 2
NEW MILES PLANNED: 14
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 3

Mendota Trail -

The Mendota Trail is a future trail route that follows an old coal and iron narrow gauge railway over 18 trestles from Bristol to Moccasin Gap in Scott County, Virginia. The City of Bristol, Virginia, is currently proposing to build a fourteen mile segment of this trail corridor through Washington County, Virginia. The trail route provides pastoral scenery to the Benhams community, at which point the terrain resembles the scenic beauty as found along the Virginia Creeper Trail. Two small communities, Benhams and Mendota, are located along the proposed trail corridor. Historic and natural sites along the corridor include: Abram's Falls, Wolf Run Gorge, and the North Fork of the Holston River.

The first segment of this trail has been acquired and plans are currently underway to develop the trail using a combination of surfaces including cinders in rural areas and asphalt in high use areas.



Beaver Creek Walk Photo by Shari Brown



Sugar Hollow Park Trail Photo by Shari Brown

Sugar Hollow Park Trail -

This trail is part of a system of trails in Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol, Virginia. The type of trails in the Park vary from the what is shown in this photograph to those more appropriate for mountain biking.

Beaver Creek Walk -

This is an urban trail in downtown Bristol, Virginia. At present it is one block long with another block in the construction phase. It is the first phase of a city-wide trail system designated in the Comprehensive Plan.

Bicycle Loop -

A bicycle loop is proposed in the Bristol Metropolitan Planning area plan that would begin and end at Cumberland Square Park. The route will follow the Norfolk Southern Railway and Little Creek to Island Road. It will then join Lee Highway and follow it to Sugar Hollow Park. The loop continues back up Lee Highway to Old Airport Road and Kings Mill Pike. A branch will connect with the Wes David Greenway in Bristol Tennessee.

Carter County (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 5.5
NEW MILES PLANNED: 4.0
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 5

Elizabethton Linear Park -

Elizabethton is currently implementing an ambitious plan for a 6-mile long linear park along the Watauga and Doe Rivers. The park includes an eight foot wide asphalt trail beginning at East Side School and terminating at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. The trail connects major city landmarks including parks, downtown and neighborhoods. The



Elizabethton Linear Path. *Photo by Alison Bullock*



Canadian Geese with their goslings enjoy the Watauga River along the Elizabethton Linear Path.
Photo by Alison Bullock

scenery along this linear paths outstanding as it passing one of Tennessee's oldest covered bridges over the Doe River, and the beautiful views of the Watauga River. Local officials are also planning bicycle routes to connect neighborhoods throughout Elizabethton to the linear path.

Sycamore Shoals State Historic

Park — Sycamore Shoals is home to two miles of interpretive hiking trail and part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. A proposed connector would like this site to the Elizabethton Linear Park.

Roan Mountain Community Park— Offers a half mile walking trail.

Watauga Dam Reservoir—TVA manages a one mile hiking trail along the shore of Watauga Lake.



Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park is home to part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.
Photo by National Park Service

Cherokee National Forest (TN)

Cherokee National Forest Trails -

Cherokee National Forest is a scenic jewel for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Nearly 370 miles of trails suitable for every user include short walks along the Forest's lakes and streams, challenging overnight treks through rugged primitive areas and multiple-mile loops for equestrians and bicyclists. In the Tennessee counties of Johnson, Sullivan, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, and Greene, trails designated for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and motorized ATV use offer access into the scenic beauty of the Appalachian Mountains.



Since 2001, with help from the area's trail-using community, the northern districts of Cherokee National Forest have developed and are continuing to implement a *Strategic Trails Plan* for the Forest's non-motorized trails. The Trails Strategy is based on these objectives:

- Creating links and loops among existing trails
- Developing long distance multi-use trails
- Providing a balance of experiences for various non-motorized trail users
- Minimizing environmental impacts
- Focusing on trails that have a sustainable volunteer program for maintenance and construction

Cherokee National Forest receives help from a variety of volunteers and partners. Projects where volunteers are needed include trail construction and maintenance, developing trailhead information, and GPSing to help develop a more accurate trail database.

Contact us

Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District
4900 Asheville Highway
Greeneville, TN 37743
(423) 638-4109

Watauga Ranger District
4400 Unicoi Drive
Unicoi, TN 37692
(423) 735-1500



Trail Use	Blaze color	Total miles
Hike only (*Includes approximately 150 miles of white-blazed Appalachian National Scenic Trail)	Blue	268 miles*
Multiple use for horses, bicycles, hikers	Yellow	83 miles
Multiple use for bicycles and hikers	Green	4 miles
Motorized ATV/multiple use	Orange	13 miles

Source: Cherokee National Forest

Greene County (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 0
NEW MILES PLANNED: 1
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 1



Big Spring behind the library is the future home of a proposed greenway in Greeneville. *Photo by Debbie Smith*

Cooperative campus. The current plan for Phase I is an eight foot wide walkway constructed of brick, concrete and asphalt of approximately 4200 linear feet. Subsequent phases of the project would extend the greenway westward to Hardin Park and eastward to Tusculum College, creating a recreation corridor throughout the city of Greeneville. Long term visions for greenways include connections to Kinser Park, Tusculum View Park, David Crockett Birthplace State Historic Park, and a possible water trail along the Nolichucky River.

City of Greeneville Greenway -

The City of Greeneville is embarking upon the development of their first greenway project beginning in downtown Greeneville. Phase I of the project starts at Big Spring and will meander through downtown and adjacent wooded areas. The trail will enhance visitors experience to the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and other protected historic buildings in the downtown area and connect with Greeneville High School and ETSU/Walter's State



Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Visitor Center and statue will be integrated in to the proposed greenway in Greeneville. *Photo by Debbie Smith*



David Crockett Birthplace State Park

Crockett Bluff Trail— 1/4 mile hiking trail, partially accessible
Limestone Creek Trail— 1/4 mile hiking trail, partially accessible

Jefferson National Forest (VA)



Virginia Creeper Trail -

The Virginia Creeper Trail stretches 35 miles from Abingdon, Virginia to the North Carolina state line near Whitetop Mountain. The former railbed passes through the back country of Western Virginia. This highland trail is rich in beauty and regional history. Co-owned by the Jefferson National Forest and the towns of Damascus and Abingdon, the Creeper Trail has become a popular destination for tourists. Damascus is now a popular hot spot for bicycle rental vendors, outfitters, restaurants and bed and breakfasts catering to the eco-tourist. The gentle, sloping terrain allows users of all ability levels to enjoy the scenery.

Permitted Uses: The trail is open to hikers, bikers and horses.



TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 171.45
NEW MILES PLANNED: 0
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 35



Mount Rogers Recreation Area Trails -

Home to many famous trails including the Virginia Creeper, the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, and a portion of the Appalachian Trail, the Mount Rogers Recreation Area provides a wide array of trail opportunities and intense scenery. Whether you enjoy hiking, biking or horseback riding, you are sure to find ample opportunities suited to your ability level to enjoy breathtaking waterfalls, historic homesteads, and geologic wonders.

Permitted Uses: Hiking and other uses as designated by each individual trail.

Note: Mileage includes Jefferson National Forest trails located in Lee, Scott and Washington counties. These trails are managed by the USDA Forest Service through the Jefferson & George Washington National Forests.

Johnson City (TN)



TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 21.2
NEW MILES PLANNED: 19.64
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 10

Winged Deer Park Trail System -

Winged Deer Park consists of 200 acres of multi-use recreation activities situated off Highway 11E North Johnson City. The “Back 40” consists of a 1.5 mile asphalt paved trail system that loops through a ridge and valley forest.. The forest is a natural wonder of an old second growth White Oak/Tulip Poplar mix that has grown in Karst/sinkhole topography. Virginia Bluebell, Bloodroot Mayapple, Spicebush and Leatherwood are commonly found in the forest. The trail is popular for nature studies including wildflower, bird, mushroom and butterfly identification.

Permitted Uses: Day-use only for walking, running and picnicking.



Fall foliage provides a scenic environment along the paved nature trails at Winged Deer Park. Photo by Brad Jones



A view of the trail system at Buffalo Mountain Park. Photo by Brad Jones

Buffalo Mountain Park Trail System -

Buffalo Mountain Park consists of 600 acres at the top of Buffalo Mountain in South Johnson City. The park has 12.7 miles of unpaved nature trails, including two loops—the Grand Loop blazed white, and the Lady Slipper Loop blazed red—and the Tiptop Trail with traverses the peak of Buffalo Mountain to 3300 feet. The park is located within the Blue Ridge High Mountains eco-region and is a natural wonder of mixed Oak-Pine forest and Hemlock-Northern hardwoods growing in the steep ridge topography. The mountain trails offer hikers a chance to get away from the city and enjoy a moderate hike in the woods.

Permitted Uses: Hiking and picnicking

The State of Franklin Multi-Use Trail— The State of Franklin Trail stretches approximately 3.5 miles in length, running parallel to State of Franklin Rd. (Rt. 321) in a North-South orientation. The trail is separated from the road and has a paved asphalt surface that accommodates cyclists, rollerblading and walkers. Future bicycle plans will extend the trail throughout the city to improve access to more citizens and aid in efficient alternative transportation.

The Johnson City Bicycle Loop— consists of 14 miles of existing and proposed trails in a circular pattern that connect important areas throughout the city, and serves as an anchor for future bicycle connections. The proposed trail would join places of importance such as ETSU, VA Hospital, Med-Tech Corridor, Johnson City Medical Center, downtown, Johnson City Crossings, and other residential and business developments. The bicycle loop is designed using a combination of multi-use paths, bicycle lanes and bike routes.

Willow Springs Park Trail— Features a 1.8 mile fully accessible, paved nature trail surrounding the park that is open to skateboards and rollerblading on the southwest side of town.

Liberty Bell Fitness Trail— A 1.7 mile paved, accessible fitness trail circles the entire Liberty Bell Complex. Open to walkers, skateboards, and rollerblading. Children on bikes and rollerblades are welcome.

The Buffalo Trace Greenway— The proposed Buffalo Trace Greenway route generally follows a historic path taken by buffalo herds from Buffalo Mountain to the Watauga River. Phase I will be a two-mile multi-use trail that provides a connection from the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site to Buffalo Mountain Park and the Cherokee National Forest. Phase II of the Buffalo Trace Greenway will run through the Tipton-Haynes site and connect to Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton. Plans also call for connecting both parks to the Tweetsie trail which would provide a connection to the Johnson City Bicycle Loop. Phase II is anticipated to be 3.64 miles in total length.

The proposed Buffalo Trace Greenway could incorporate sites such as the old mill near Milligan College.



State of Franklin Multi-Use Trail connects businesses and community facilities. Photo by Johnson City Planning Dept.



Johnson County (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 49.2
NEW MILES PLANNED: 91.5
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 8

Johnson County has Big Plans—

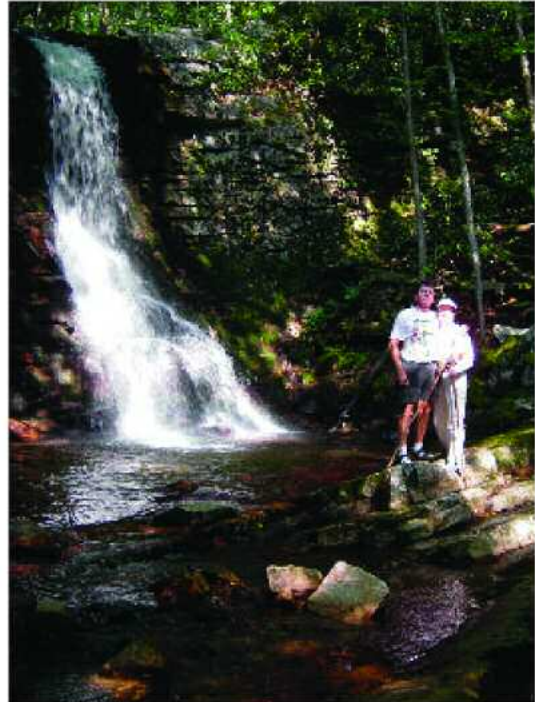
The Johnson County Trail Association (JCTA) has a bold long range plan to develop an 87-mile multi-use trail network throughout Johnson County. Some of the trail segments will include these connections:

- Mountain City to Watauga Lake
- Roan Valley Estates to Ralph Stout Park (Goose Creek Trail)
- Shoun's Crossroads to Sink Mountain (The Roan Creek Trail)
- Shady Valley to Backbone Rock and to Damascus, Virginia
- Mountain City to Doe Valley
- Roan Valley Estates to Trade
- Doe Valley to Shady Valley

Laurel Creek Trail—

The first new trail to be developed is the Laurel Creek Trail which will be a spur connecting to the Virginia Creeper Trail. The JCTA is partnering with the National Forest Service to develop this 6.0 mile Laurel Creek Trail as a multi-use, non-motorized trail through the Laurel Creek Gorge. Plans call for development to take place in three phases, extending first from Camp Ahistadi in Johnson County to the Virginia Creeper Trail, then thru Laurel Bloomery and finally into Mountain City. A century ago, this former transportation route enhanced the region's economy and quality of life; today they are bringing it back for the same reasons.

Mountain City Greenway—The town of Mountain City has a 4.5 mile greenway plans that will extend from Ralph Stout Part to historical Shouns Crossroads with a stop at the County Welcome Center at the half way point.



Linda and Howard Moon enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Gentry Falls in Johnson County.

Hiking Trails in the Cherokee National Forest

Iron Mountain Trails—Approximately 20 miles of the Iron Mountain Trail pass along the crest of Iron Mountain within Johnson County, beginning at the mountain crest and “Cross Mountain Rd” and extending north. Spectacular vistas are enjoyed by hikers. Approximately 2 miles beyond the TN/VA state line the trail enters Damascus, VA.

Backbone Falls and Backbone Rock Hiking Trail—Managed by Cherokee National Forest, these two short loop trails total about 2 miles and share a trailhead parking facility off Cross Mountain Road. The trails offers a nice picnic area alongside scenic Beaverdam Creek.

Gentry Creek Falls Trail—Near Laurel Bloomery, the 2.5 mile trail to the tandem 30 feet high falls is almost as beautiful as the falls themselves. Through pristine forest, the trail crosses Gentry Creek 14 times, en-route to the falls. Several of the crossings are now bridged, but most involve rock-hopping or just sloshing through the creek.

Rogers Ridge Horse Trail—Near Laurel Bloomery and Gentry Creek Falls, this 5.8 mile horse trail has a separate parking facility for trailers.



Backbone Falls Hiking Trail

Jonesborough (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 4.5
NEW MILES PLANNED: 3
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 5

Persimmon Ridge Park Trails—The Persimmon Ridge Park provides trail opportunities along four nature trails, each approximately 1 mile long. Three of the trails are natural surfaced pedestrian foot trails that run the three ridges around the park. An entry trail includes a boardwalk through a wetland area along fairly level terrain. Renovation to the boardwalk is currently planned that will allow this trail to be ADA accessible.

Construction is well underway for the ***Lost State of Franklin Trail***, a new paved trail that begins at the boardwalk and runs the length of Persimmon Ridge Park, approximately 1/4 mile. Plans call for connecting all the park areas and large subdivisions with walkways. Town Administrator Bob Browning envisions that the trail will enable Jonesborough citizens to “safely walk to and from anywhere in town.” The first phase of this project connects Persimmon Ridge with Main Street. One unique component of this project is that it will be designed along with new sewer construction, so the town will not have to come back later and remove walkways in order to install utilities.

Permitted Uses: Pedestrian only



Dogwood Lane—Located in the downtown historic district, the Dogwood Lane Trail is one block long, bricked pavement along Little Limestone Creek. The trail will be part of the Lost State of Franklin Trail that begins in Persimmon Ridge and will connect to Dogwood Lane.

Permitted Uses: Pedestrian only



Construction underway for the Lost State of Franklin Scenic Trail. Photo by Tony Delucia

Kingsport (TN)



Kingsport Greenbelt -

The Kingsport Greenbelt is a linear park that connects residential neighborhoods, traditional parks, commercial districts, downtown, schools and activity centers. There are currently 7 miles of completed asphalt trail in the Greenbelt. Plans for 2006 include an addition of 1,800 feet. The pathway strolls along gentle streams and passes sites of historical and aesthetic value. It follows the basin of Reedy Creek and the contours of the Holston River. On average, there are approximately 1,000 people enjoying the trail's natural beauty and recreational opportunities each day. The Greenbelt has been chosen as one of the top priorities for the quality of life in Kingsport. The Kingsport Greenbelt has received national recognition through designation as a Whitehouse Millennium Trail and is a recipient of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Stewardship Award and a Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association 4-STAR Award.

Permitted Uses: Walking, running, bicycling, skateboarding and roller-blading.



TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 46.3
NEW MILES PLANNED: 3
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 19



Bays Mountain Park Trail System -

Bays Mountain is a nature preserve owned and operated by the city of Kingsport. The facilities include a 3,500 acre outdoor classroom surrounding a 44 acre lake. The park is nestled in the northeastern end of the Bays Mountain formation only a few miles from downtown Kingsport. Framed on all sides by mountain ridges, much of the park lies in a natural basin and is a protected haven for wildlife. A leisurely walk in the Spring may reveal over 60 kinds of wildflowers and visitors might hear a distant grouse drumming on a log to call for a mate. The quiet snows of winter invite cross country skiers to test their skills on the 25 miles of trails, spotting deer and wild turkey. The park's trail system includes 12 miles of dirt/gravel fire roads constructed by the CCC in the mid-1930's and 10 miles of soil/mulch surface trails. A 1/4 mile asphalt path provides opportunities to explore the park's native animal community by mountain bike.

Permitted Uses: Hiking and running allowed on all trails. Mountain biking permitted only on fire roads.

Kingsport Neighborhood Trails –

Kingsport has three neighborhood trails that provide an opportunity to enjoy unique outdoor experiences close to home.

Memorial Gardens Park Trail – This 1918 ft loop paved/concrete trail circles an open meadow city park used by the community for festivals and special events. The trail connects by sidewalks to Dobyns Bennet High School, the Palmer Center (Schools), the Civic Auditorium, adjacent residential neighborhoods, J. Fred Johnson Park (City), and the Kingsport Greenbelt.

Permitted Uses: Walking, running, bicycling, skateboarding and roller-blading.



Borden Park Trail – Borden Park is one of the oldest city parks in Kingsport and has many great features. Users can play tennis, play disc golf, have a picnic, enjoy children's playground equipment, compete in outdoor basketball, pitch horseshoes, play table games inside the community building, study birds in the woods or stroll through the park on a network of paved trail sections that extend 2620 ft.

Permitted Uses: Walking, running, bicycling, skateboarding and roller-blading.

Ridgefields Park Trail and Chippendale Neighborhood Connector

– The Ridgefield Park Trail is a paved surface that circles 1300 ft around a neighborhood park. The park contains children's playground equipment, beautiful landscaping, an outdoor basketball court, accessible parking areas, benches, and a soccer field. In addition to the primary park trail there is a 250 ft pathway/sidewalk connector that leads to the area neighborhood. This multi use trail is a great resource for exercise, learning to ride a bike and for strolling with your neighbor. Long range city park plans include connecting this neighborhood trail to the Kingsport Greenbelt.



Permitted Uses: Walking, running, bicycling, skateboarding and roller-blading.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Planning -

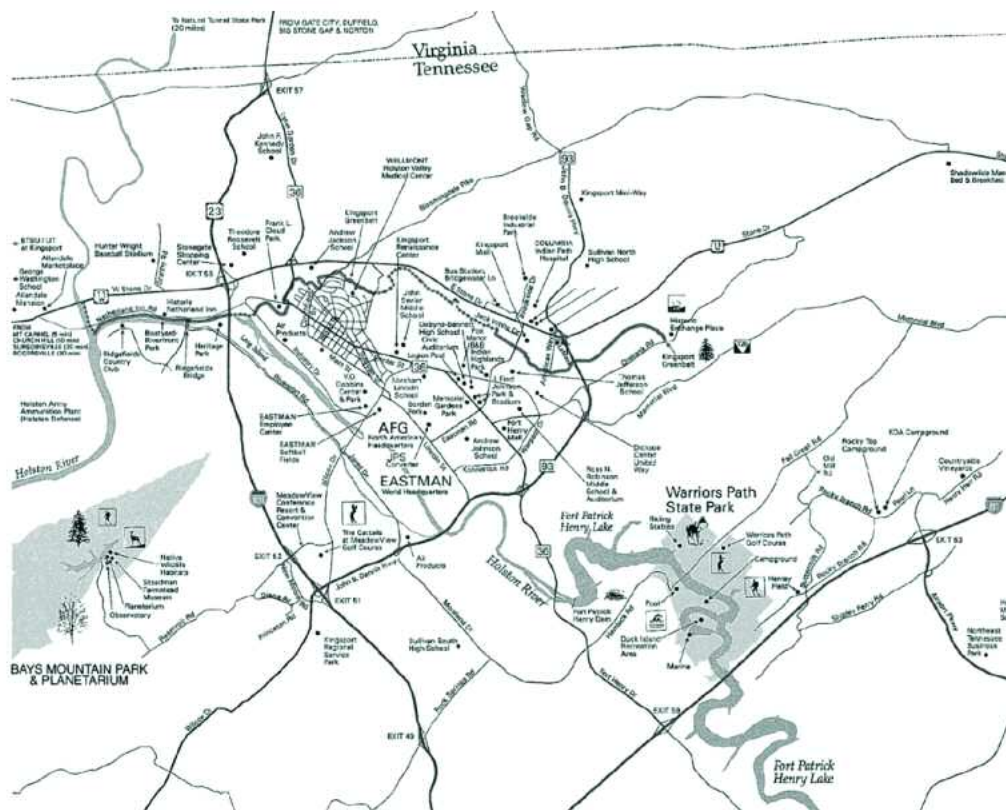
Enthusiasm and interest in biking and walking is growing at both the national and local levels, and there is great potential to increase the numbers of both within the Kingsport urbanized area. States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the country have, are working on, or are currently implementing plans to address bicycle and pedestrian issues, in part to respond to the requirements of the most recent federal legislation.

A bicycle and pedestrian friendly community is the result of long-term endeavors to provide safe accommodations, as well as encouraging residents to bike (and walk, if possible) for transportation and recreation. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kingsport, Tennessee urbanized area recognizes that transportation planning includes addressing the access and mobility needs of individuals who wish to have bikeways and sidewalks near their homes to use for traveling to work and for recreational activities. To that end, staff at the MPO have begun the process of developing a Metropolitan Bicycle Master Plan, and an Urban Area Pedestrian Plan.

There is great potential to increase the numbers of bicyclists in this region. States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across the country have, are working on, or are currently implementing plans to address bicycle and pedestrian issues, in part to respond to the requirements of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and its successors, the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA21) and SAFETEA-LU.

The “Kingsport Metropolitan Master Bicycle Facilities Plan” is designed to lay the foundation for providing the region with way and means for creating an environment where people could

choose to bicycle or walk to their destinations and provide recreational opportunities for walking and bicycling to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle. The Plan will provide guidance for the development and implementation of an interconnected network of designated on-street bicycle facilities as well as off-roadway trails and sidewalks.



Lee County (VA)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 80.8

NEW MILES PLANNED: 30

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 17

Powell River Blueway—

Flowing from Big Stone Gap, the Powell River meanders amid ridges and valleys before merging with the Clinch River in Tennessee. The Powell River offers tremendous opportunity for environmental education and stewardship of our natural resources and eco-tourism prospects. The Nature Conservancy ranks the Powell River watershed third in the country for the number of fish and mussel species at risk (30) and the number of risk and mussel species with U.S. Endangered Species Act Status (13). Designation of the Powell River as a blueway or water trail would provide a peaceful, scenic paddling opportunity awaits non-motorized boaters through this pristine, remote countryside.

Through the establishment of public, non-motorized boat access points, overnight canoe camp sites and signage, the blueway would establish a distinct trail opportunity in Lee County.



Paddlers enjoy a float by canoe on the Powell River.
Photo by: Black Diamond RC&D

Melungeon Trail—(previously proposed as the Paradise Trail) –

A proposed hiking trail that would run along the ridge of the northern portion of Lee County, VA near the Kentucky border. This trail would connect the existing Olinger Gap Trail in eastern Lee County near Keokee with the existing Cumberland Gap National Historic Park trail system west of Ewing.



Cumberland Gap National Historic Park Trail System –

Cumberland Gap National Military Park offers a wide array of hiking, equestrian and mountain biking opportunities. The entire park includes portions of Virginia, Kentucky and northeast Tennessee. Fourteen trails totaling almost 36 miles meander through eastern deciduous forest in this 20,000 acre national park. Distances range from a 1/4-mile loop trail to the sixteen and a half-mile Ridge Trail. Trails lead to Hensley Settlement, a restored mountain community located atop isolated Brush Mountain. Connections are in the

works to connect the Wilderness Road State Park to Cumberland Gap. In Tennessee, the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail begins in the park, and will someday connect hikers all the way to Chattanooga.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail



TOTAL TRAIL MILES IN TN: 8.0
TRAIL MILES IN VA: 5.0
NEW MILES PLANNED: 51.0
MOTOR ROUTE MILES MARKED: 65.0

In September 1980 the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail was created by congressional authorization. Stretching 330 miles from Virginia to South Carolina the route retraces the 1780 military campaign, which led to the defeat of a British force led by Major Patrick Ferguson at the battle of Kings Mountain. Administered by the National Park Service the resource is still being developed, but some trail segments and associated sites are presently available for public use.



Original trail bed of the OVNHT near Abingdon, VA.
National Park Service

Sixty-four miles of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail route lie within the planning boundaries of the Southern Appalachian Greenway Alliance. This includes 11 miles stretching south from Abingdon, Virginia to the Tennessee State line, as well as 53 miles within eastern Tennessee.

At present a one-mile section of pathway is available for public use in the Abingdon area, along the eastern bank of Wolf Creek as well as a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section within the town limits that marks the northern trailhead. Other segment additions are available south of town in Washington County. Two

sites within Virginia have also been Certified as part of the Trail, due to their historic associations. They include the gravesite of Colonel William Campbell, the American commander, in Seven Mile Ford, as well as Dunn's (or Craig's) Meadow, the Washington County militia muster site in Abingdon.



View of Roan Mountain from the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. *National Park Service*

In Tennessee visitors can walk a mile and a quarter long segment of the Trail at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. The two-mile Elizabethton Riverfront Linear Walkway/Bikeway has also been officially recognized as a part of the Trail. Further south the public can enjoy a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile section of trail

along the Doe River in the town of Roan Mountain, as well as a 2.1 mile portion of the Trail within Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area. Additional trail segments in Carter and Sullivan Counties are planned.

The public may also retrace the route of the campaign by driving the Commemorative Motor Route. Using existing state highways, visitors follow a series of posted Trail logo signs, providing an option to walking non-motorized sections. Eleven miles of the Commemorative Motor Route pass through Virginia, while 54 miles traverse through Tennessee.

Although the resource is administered by a federal agency a relatively small portion of the trail is located on federal lands. As envisioned by Congress the project is dependent on partnerships between the National



OVTA members fire a volley while crossing the Watauga River at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park during the annual march.
National Park Service

Park Service and a variety of shareholders. At present they number around 100 and include corporations, private citizens, government agencies, non-profit groups, and many others. Due to these collaborative efforts a wider variety of funding sources are available to help in the preservation, interpretation, and development of the Trail.

For more information about the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail please contact the Superintendent at 2635 Park Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina 29702. The Trail's website is www.nps.gov/ovvi.



Dunn's Meadow site along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Scott County & Gate City (VA)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 2.55
NEW MILES PLANNED: 2.45
NUMBER OF TRAILS: 4

GATE CITY

Little Moccasin Creek Trail -

The Town of Gate City has proposed the development of a half mile long community trail along Little Moccasin Creek from Park Street to the downtown and adjacent residential areas. A unique feature about this trail is the proposed use of polymeric soil cement, an alternative, inexpensive trail surface that is more environmentally sound and aesthetically complementary to the surrounding floodplain area. Pedestrians on the trail will be exposed to numerous topics, including streambank rehabilitation, innovative stormwater management in the form of a rain garden and an infiltration trench, native plants, historic architecture and personal health and fitness. It also provides a trail for bird watching, wildlife photography.



Little Moccasin Creek

Permitted Uses: Walking, jogging, and bicycling.

Clinch River Blueway— A water trail is proposed for the Clinch River that would span the length of Scott County from northeast of Dungannon to Hancock County, Tennessee, offering peaceful paddling opportunities and canoe access points. The Nature Conservancy classifies the Clinch River as the nation's leading hot spot of aquatic diversity. With 29 rare mussel species and 19 rare fish species, the Clinch River harbors a collection of freshwater mussels unmatched anywhere in the world. To ensure the survival of these species, conservation along the river, including riparian restoration, is a priority. The blueway will be designed to provide appropriate public access to this environmental education wonder, without endangering the resources.

Other community trails in Scott County include:

Duffield — Duffield Recreation Complex Walking Trail and the proposed Daniel Boone Trail

Nickelsville — Keith Park Trail within Keith Memorial Park

Weber City Recreation Complex Walking Trail

Tennessee State Parks

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 35.2

NEW MILES PLANNED: 0

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 20

Roan Mountain State Park Trails -

There are approximately 13 miles of hiking trails in Roan Mountain State Park and 2.25 miles of mountain bike trails. Difficulty levels range from easy to strenuous. Hikers can stroll along the Doe River or take a challenging trail up to a ridge with a great view.

Other hiking choices abound in this area of the southern Appalachians. Many trails of varying distances and difficulty can be accessed from the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway. Elk River Falls, Laurel Fork Falls, and Linville Falls are also nearby. The Appalachian Trail, Rhododendron Gardens Trail, Roan High Bluff Trail and Hack Line Road Trail can be accessed from Carver's Gap, which is 8 miles from the park.

Permitted Uses: Hiking. Mountain biking in designated areas.



Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park -

There is a two mile walking/fitness trail that follows the Watauga River, of which one mile is located within park boundaries. The trail also accesses Sycamore Shoals Hospital which is adjacent to the park.

Permitted Uses: Walking and jogging only.

Warrior's Path State Park Trails -

Nearly nineteen miles of trails now meander through park woodlands offering great views, a diversity of wildlife habitats, and a richness of typical East Tennessee forests, fields and wetlands. The paved walking path around Duck Island is fully accessible, and other fully accessible trails are in the planning stages. Several other trails are also under development and one that includes a small boardwalk through the Sinking Waters wetland area.

Bicycles are welcome on park roads and many bikers enjoy the paved path around Duck Island. A system of mountain bike trails is currently under construction. Four miles of scenic trail is complete and available for public use.

Permitted Uses: Walking, hiking and jogging. Bicycles in designated areas.

Tusculum (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 1 1/4

NEW MILES PLANNED: 4

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 1



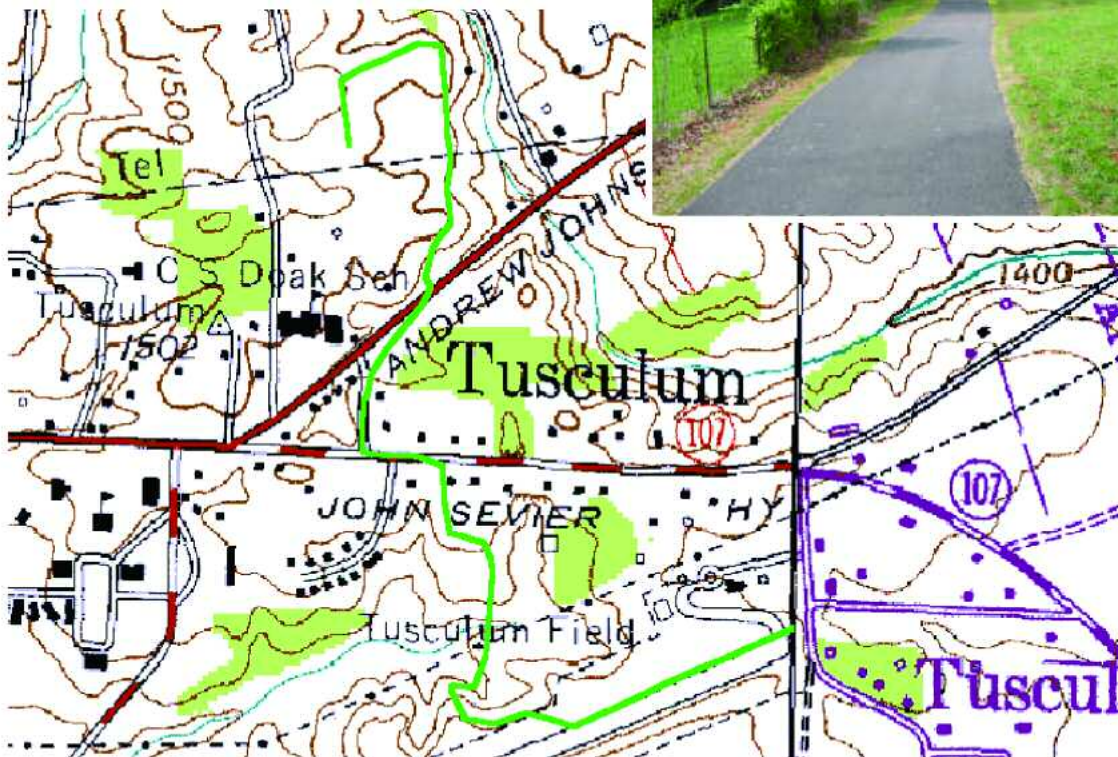
Tusculum Linear Park -

This asphalt paved trail winds through neighborhoods and local parks with links to Doak Elementary School, Tusculum City Park, and Tusculum College. The town is currently planning the expansion of an additional 4 miles of paved trail with a connection to Greene Valley Development Center.

Permitted Uses: Walking, Biking, Roller Skating/Blading, and accessible to persons with disabilities.



View of the trail with Tusculum Town Hall is the upper right hand corner. *Photos by Roy Settle*



Unicoi County (TN)

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 4.25

NEW MILES PLANNED: 22

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 3

North Indian Creek Greenway—

Ten years ago the town of Erwin pioneered in successful greenway planning and grantwriting. City officials, with the help of a local planning/design firm, envisioned an Appalachian Trail Loop and began planning Erwin's portion, North Indian Creek Greenway. At present, more than half of Erwin's Linear Trail has been completed though a series of TDOT grants, city and county funding and volunteer efforts.

The 8-foot wide paved trail runs alongside North Indian Creek, parallel to I-26, through woodland, wetlands and a series of fishing ponds. Lights illuminate the route from dusk to dawn; restrooms, picnic tables, fishing docks and benches provide amenities for a host of users. The trail offers an outdoor classroom for local school children. "Arts in the Park" is an annual summertime event sponsored by Unicoi County Chamber of Commerce, where visual and performance artists are staged along the route to the delight of regional visitors.

This successful grassroots project and the town of Erwin were recognized with the Governor's Greenways and Trails Stewardship Award in 2004. The 15-mile Appalachian Trail Loop will eventually span from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail near Chestoa through Erwin to the town of Unicoi and on to meet the A.T. again at Iron Mountain Gap.

Fish Hatchery Trail -

A short nature trail winds through the woods of the grounds of Unicoi County Heritage Museum and Erwin National Fish Hatchery. Along this leg-stretcher trail, a 30-minute audio tour and plant identification describe woodland flora.



Art in the Park event is a popular activity along North Indian Creek Greenway Photo by Unicoi Chamber of Commerce

Unicoi Elementary School Walking

Trail—Sales of club-produced strawberry jam and apple butter by the Unicoi Ruritan Club helped build the ¼-mile paved walking trail and picnic pavilion beside Unicoi Elementary School. Located in the heart of the town of Unicoi, the trail encircles a large grassy park, providing a well-used community gathering center for school children and town residents.

Virginia State Park Trails

TOTAL TRAIL MILES: 16.2

NEW MILES PLANNED: 0

NUMBER OF TRAILS: 10

Wilderness Road State Park (Lee County)

Purchased in 1993, Wilderness Road State Park is one of four new state parks being developed. The park is approximately 200 acres, open for picnicking, hiking and living history programs, sitting astride the "Wilderness Road," which was carved by Daniel Boone in 1775 to open America's first western frontier. By 1800, more than 300,000 settlers traveled the Wilderness Road westward through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and the Midwest.

The Wilderness Road Trail, a newly completed 10-mile linear hiking, biking and equestrian trail, bisects Wilderness Road State Park. Visitors may park their cars and/or horse trailers at the park in order to access the trail. The trail connects Martin's Station to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, six miles away, and Cumberland Gap's more than 50 miles of trails. Bikes can be rented to ride the Wilderness Road Trail that passes through the park. The park also has a self-guided hiking trail along with interpretive and environmental educational programs.

The Indian Ridge Trail is a 1.0 mile self-guided, natural heritage, loop trail to Indian Creek Overlook.

Permitted Uses: Hiking, biking, and equestrian use.



Natural Tunnel State Park (Scott County)

Natural Tunnel State Park offers seven walking trails, the longest one being 1.1 miles long. These trails lead to the unique features of the park: the tunnel floor, Lover's Leap, Tunnel Hill and Gorge Ridge. A 500-foot boardwalk and observation deck provide accessibility to guests with disabilities. Most trails are open to mountain bikes with bike rentals available at the campground host campsite.

Appendix H - Existing Trails Database

SAGA DATABASE OF EXISTING GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Appalachian Trail	Cherokee National Forest	NPS/USFS
Bartee Branch Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Birchfield Trail/Overmountain Victory NHT*	Hampton Creek Cove SNA	TDEC/NPS
Cabin Loop Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Cardens Bluff Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Chestnut Ridge Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Chestnut Flats Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Cloudland High Nature Club Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Coon Den Falls	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Elizabethton Linear Park Trail*	Elizabethton Linear Park	City of Elizabethton
Forest Road Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Fred H. Behrand Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Furnace Branch Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Furnace Branch Connector Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Hampton Blueline Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Hack Line Road Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Holston Mountain West Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Lacy Trap Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Laurel Fork Shelter Blueline Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Laurel Fork Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Lenoir Shell Homestead Trail	Hampton Creek Cove SNA	TDEC
Little Pond Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Low Gap Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Overmountain Victory Trail River Walk*	Sycamore Shoals State Park	TDEC/NPS
Pond Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Peg Leg Mine Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Raven Rock Overlook Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Roan Mountain Community Park Trail*	Roan Mountain Community Park	Roan Mountain
Rye Patch Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Sycamore Shoals Walking/Fitness Trail*	Sycamore Shoals State Park	TDEC
Taylor Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Tom Gray Trail	Roan Mountain State Park	TDEC
Watauga Dam Reservation Trail	Watauga Dam Reservation	TVA
Watauga Point Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Yellow Mountain Road/ Overmountain Victory NHT*	Hampton Creek Cove SNA	USFS/NPS

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Carter	TN	54.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	2.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	2.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	4.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	4.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	1.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Carter	TN	3.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	1.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	6.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	2.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Carter	TN	0.66	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	8.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Carter	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	5.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	3.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	4.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	0.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	5.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	1.02	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	4.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Carter	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Carter	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	0.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Carter	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
		133.18			

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Appalachian Trail	Cherokee National Forest	NPS/USFS
Artie Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Baileyton Community Trail	Town of Baileyton	
Bullen Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Cowbell Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Crockett Bluff Trail	Davey Crockett Birthplace State Park	TDEC
Davis Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Doctor's Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Greene Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Horse Creek Recreation	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Jennings Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Kinser Park Trail	Kinser Park	Greene County
Little Jennings Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Little Paint Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Limestone Creek Trail	Davey Crockett Birthplace State Park	TDEC
Marguerite Falls Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Middle Spring Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Paint Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Paint Rock Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Paint Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Pete's Branch Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Phillips Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Poplar Cove Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Sarvis Cove Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Scarlet Oak Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Squibb Creek Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Turkey Pen Cove Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Tusculum City Park Walking Trail	Tusculum City Park	City of Tusculum
Tusculum Linear Trail		City of Tusculum
Crockett Spring Trail	Crockett Springs Park	City of Rogersville
Holston River Trail		Mt. Carmel
Appalachian Trail	Cherokee National Forest	NPS/USFS
Backbone Falls Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Backbone Rock Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Gentry Creek Falls Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Iron Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Laurel Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Old Homestead Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Rogers Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Greene	TN	8.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	1.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
	Greene	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized
Greene	TN	2.20	Trail	Non-motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	1.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Greene	TN	2.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	1.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	3.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Greene	TN	1.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Greene	TN	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	1.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	4.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	1.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	8.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	0.51	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	2.62	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Greene	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	0.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Greene	TN	0.25	Greenway	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Greene	TN	4.50	Greenway	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
		62.28			
Hawkins	TN				
Hawkins	TN				
Johnson	TN	15.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	0.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	2.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	2.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	19.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Johnson	TN	2.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Johnson	TN	5.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
		49.20			

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Boone Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Cave Springs Loop Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Colson Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Cumberland Bowl Park Walking Trail	Cumberland Bowl Park	Town of Jonesville
Ewing Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Fort McCook Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Gibson Gap Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Greenleaf Nature Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Honey Tree Spur Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Indian Ridge Trail	Wilderness Road State Park	Virginia State Park
Indian Rock Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Lake Keokee Loop	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Lewis Hollow Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Olinger Gap Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Payne Branch Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Ridge Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Stone Mountain Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Tennessee Road Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Tri-State Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Wagon Tunnel Trail	Cranks Creek Wildlife Management Area	State of Virginia
Wallen Ridge Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
White Rock Foot Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Wilderness Road State Park Trail	Wilderness Road State Park	Virginia State Park
Wilderness Road Trail	Cumberland Gap National Historic Park	NPS
Back Valley Loop Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Bark Camp Lake Loop Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Bear Rock Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Carter Cabin Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Center Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Chief Benge Scout Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Devil's Fork Loop Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Duffield Recreation Complex Walking Trail	Duffield Recreation Complex	Duffield
Gorge Ridge Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
High Knob Lake Shore Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Keith Park Trail	Keith Memorial Park	Nickelsville
Kitchen Rock Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Little Stony National Recreation Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Lover's Leap Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Osbourne Ridge Loop Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Purchase Ridge Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Spring Hollow Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Straight Fork Ridge Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Tunnel Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Tunnel Hill Trail	Natural Tunnel State Park	Virginia State Parks
Weber City Recreation Complex Walking Trail	Weber City Recreation Complex	Weber City

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Lee	VA	1.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Lee	VA	1.00	Trail		
Lee	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	4.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Equestrian
Lee	VA	0.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	4.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Equestrian
Lee	VA	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Equestrian
Lee	VA	3.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Lee	VA	1.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	1.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	2.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	16.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Equestrian
Lee	VA	14.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	0.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	0.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	4.00	Trail		
Lee	VA	6.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Lee	VA	10.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Lee	VA	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
		80.80			
Scott	VA	26.70	Trail		
Scott	VA	3.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Scott	VA	0.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Scott	VA	0.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	15.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Scott	VA	7.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Scott	VA	0.25	Trail		
Scott	VA	0.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	1.30	Trail		
Scott	VA		Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Scott	VA	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	3.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	0.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Scott	VA	10.75	Trail		
Scott	VA	2.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Scott	VA	1.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Scott	VA	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Scott	VA	0.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Walking
		77.50			

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Cherokee National Forest	NPS/USFS
Bays Mountain Trail System	Bays Mountain Park	City of Kingsport
Borden Park Trail	Borden Park	City of Kingsport
Bluff City Park Trail	Bluff City Park	Town of Bluff City
Connector Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Cross Ridge Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Devil's Backbone Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Fall Creek Loop Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Flatwoods Horse Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Flint Mill Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Hemlock Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
High Ridge Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Holston Bluffs Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Holston Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Jacobs Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Josiah Hiking Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Josiah Horse Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Kingsport Greenbelt		City of Kingsport
Lake Hollow Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Lake Ridge Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Lakeshore Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Little Oak Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Little Oak Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Logging Road Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Memorial Park Trail	Memorial Park	City of Kingsport
Morrell Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
North Ridge Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Overlook Trail - Steele Creek	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Overlook Trail - Warriors' Path	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Riverbank Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Sinking Waters Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Short Spur Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Slagle Hollow Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
South Ridge Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Sullivan County Park Trail	Sullivan County Park	Sullivan County
Tulip Tree Trail	Steele Creek Park	City of Bristol
Warriors' Path Mountain Bike Trail System	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC
Wes Davis Greenway		City of Bristol
Westside Bike/Walk Trail		City of Bristol
Woodland Ridge Trail	Warrior's Path State Park	TDEC

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Sullivan	TN	6.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	22.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	0.25	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	0.75	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	0.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	5.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Sullivan	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	9.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	0.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	0.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Sullivan	TN	6.50	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	0.75	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Interpretive Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Interpretive Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	0.24	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	2.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Equestrian/Hiking
Sullivan	TN	2.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	3.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	1.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Sullivan	TN	2.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	2.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Sullivan	TN	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN	6.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	0.40	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Sullivan	TN		Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Sullivan	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
94.84					

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Cherokee National Forest	NPS/USFS
California Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Dick Creek Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Fish Hatchery Trail	Erwin National Fish Hatchery	USF&WS
Granny Lewis Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Hell Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Hemlock Forest Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Limestone Cove Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Little Dark Hollow Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Long Arm Branch Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
North Indian Creek Greenway		Town of Erwin
Patty Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Rattlesnake Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Rock Creek Bicycle Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Rock Creek Falls Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Sill Branch North Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Sill Branch South Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Stamping Ground Ridge Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Temple Hill Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Trail of the Hardwoods	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Unicoi Elementary School Trail	Unicoi Elementary School	Town of Unicoi
Browning Lane Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Buffalo Mountain Hiking Trail System	Buffalo Mountain Park	City of Johnson City
Buffalo Mountain Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
Civitan Park Fitness Trail	Civitan Park	City of Johnson City
Firing Range Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Iron Furnace Trail	Cherokee National Forest	USFS
John Tomko Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Jonesborough Ridge Health & Fitness Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Liberty Bell Fitness Trail	Liberty Bell School Complex	City of Johnson City
Luke Carter Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Persimmon Ridge Health & Fitness Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
State of Franklin Multi-Use Trail		City of Johnson City
Walter Hopkins Trail	Persimmon Ridge Park	Town of Jonesborough
Willow Springs Park Fitness Trail	Willow Springs Park	City of Johnson City
Winged Deer Park Fitness Trail	Winged Deer Park	City of Johnson City

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Unicoi	TN	28.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	4.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	2.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Unicoi	TN		Trail	Non-Motorized	Interpretive Hiking
Unicoi	TN	2.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	0.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	0.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	3.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	4.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Unicoi	TN	3.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Unicoi	TN	4.00	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Unicoi	TN	2.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	3.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Unicoi	TN	0.90	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Unicoi	TN	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	1.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	4.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Unicoi	TN	1.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Unicoi	TN	0.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Interpretive Hiking
Unicoi	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	Walking
70.45					
Washington	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	14.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	13.00	Trail	Multi-Use	Multi-Use
Washington	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	1.00	Trail	Multi-Use	
Washington	TN	1.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	1.32	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	1.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	0.25	Greenway	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	3.24	Trail	Multi-Use	
Washington	TN	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	1.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	TN	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	
43.41					

Trail Name	Park Name	Managing Agency
Overmountain Victory NH Trail*	Overmountain Victory Trail	Town of Abingdon/NPS
Beartree Gap Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Beartree Lake Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Beaver Flats Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Beech Grove Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Bushwacker Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Buzzard Den Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Chestnut Ridge Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Clark Mountain Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Davis Trail Segment*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Eades Trail Segment*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Elk Garden Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Feathercamp Ridge Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Feathercamp Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Iron Mountain Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Lover's Leap Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
McCoy Trail Segment*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Rush Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Saunders Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Sawmill Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Shaw Gap Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Skulls Gap Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Stewart Trail Segment*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Straight Branch Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Straight Mountain Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Stockyard Trail*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Sugar Hollow Trail	Sugar Hollow Recreation Area	Bristol VA Parks and Recreation Dept.
Taylors Valley Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Tennessee Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Thompson Trail Segment*	"private land, but open to public"	private
Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS/ Washington Co.
Wolf Creek Trail*		Town of Abingdon/NPS
Wright Hollow Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS
Yancy Trail	Jefferson National Forest	USFS

Updated November 2005

Sources: Tennessee State Recreation Plan Greenways & Trails Database 2004;

<http://www.se-tel.com/~johnpitt/hikepine.html>

<http://www.virginiatrails.org/>

<http://www.unicoicounty.org/recreation.html>

Individual community submissions

National Geographic Maps of the Cherokee & Jefferson National Forests

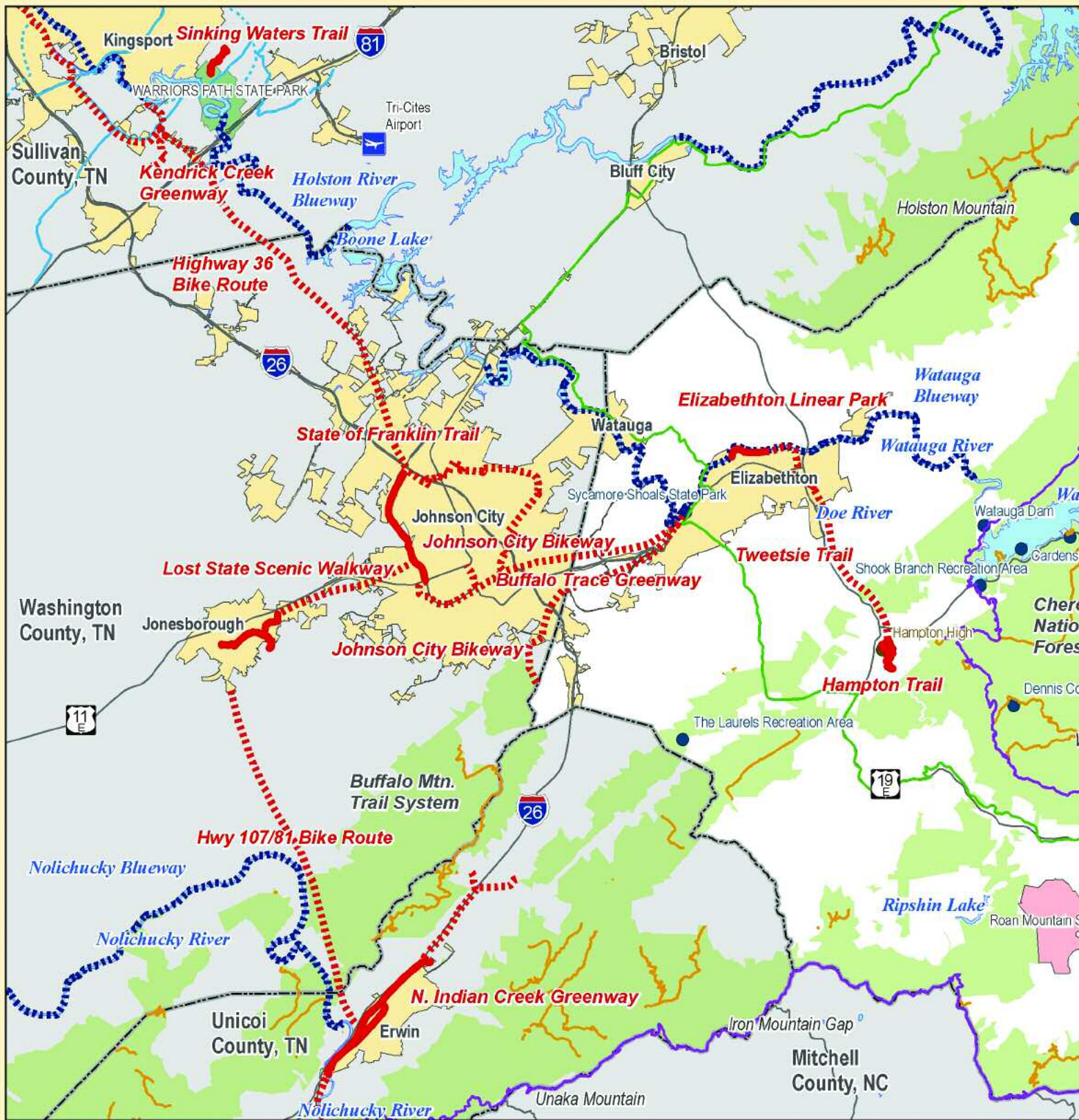
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/charokee/recreation/trails>

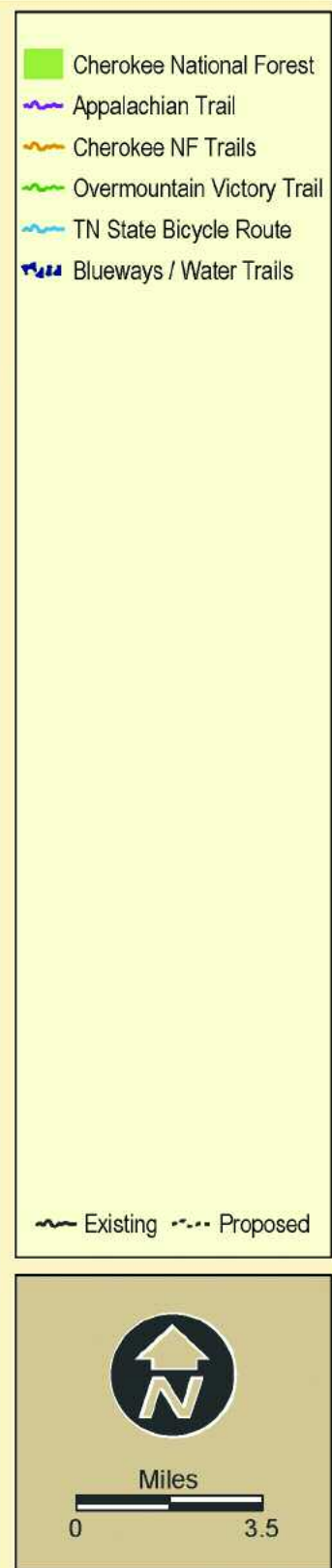
"The Trails of Virginia: Hiking the Old Dominion by Allen de Hart, 2003"

County	State	Length (mi.)	Trail Type	Trail Type	Designated Use
Washington	VA	0.75	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	3.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	0.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	3.30	Trail	Multi-Use	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	1.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	1.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	1.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	3.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	0.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	2.20	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	14.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Varies
Washington	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	1.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	2.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	2.80	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	1.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	0.25	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	1.70	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	2.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	1.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	
Washington	VA	2.60	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
Washington	VA	1.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	0.10	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	33.40	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	0.50	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hiking
Washington	VA	3.00	Trail	Non-Motorized	Multi-Use
Washington	VA	0.30	Trail	Non-Motorized	Hike/Bike
		95.10			
		706.76	TOTAL REGIONAL MILES		

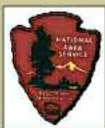
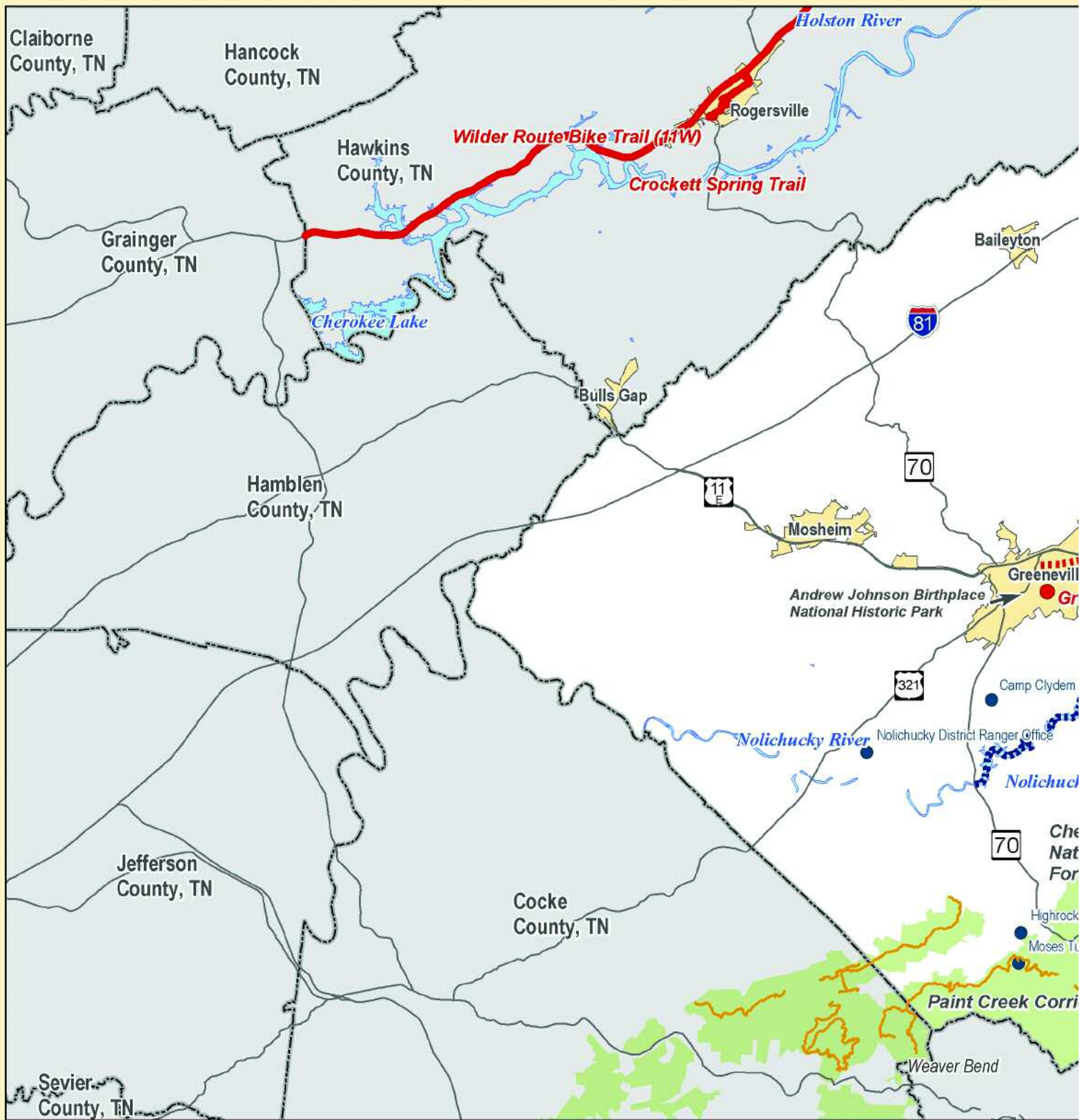
USFS = USDA Forest Service
 NPS = National Park Service
 TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
 TVA = Tennessee Valley Authority
 SNA = State Natural Area (State of Tennessee)
 USFWS = US Fish & Wildlife Service
 *Certified as part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

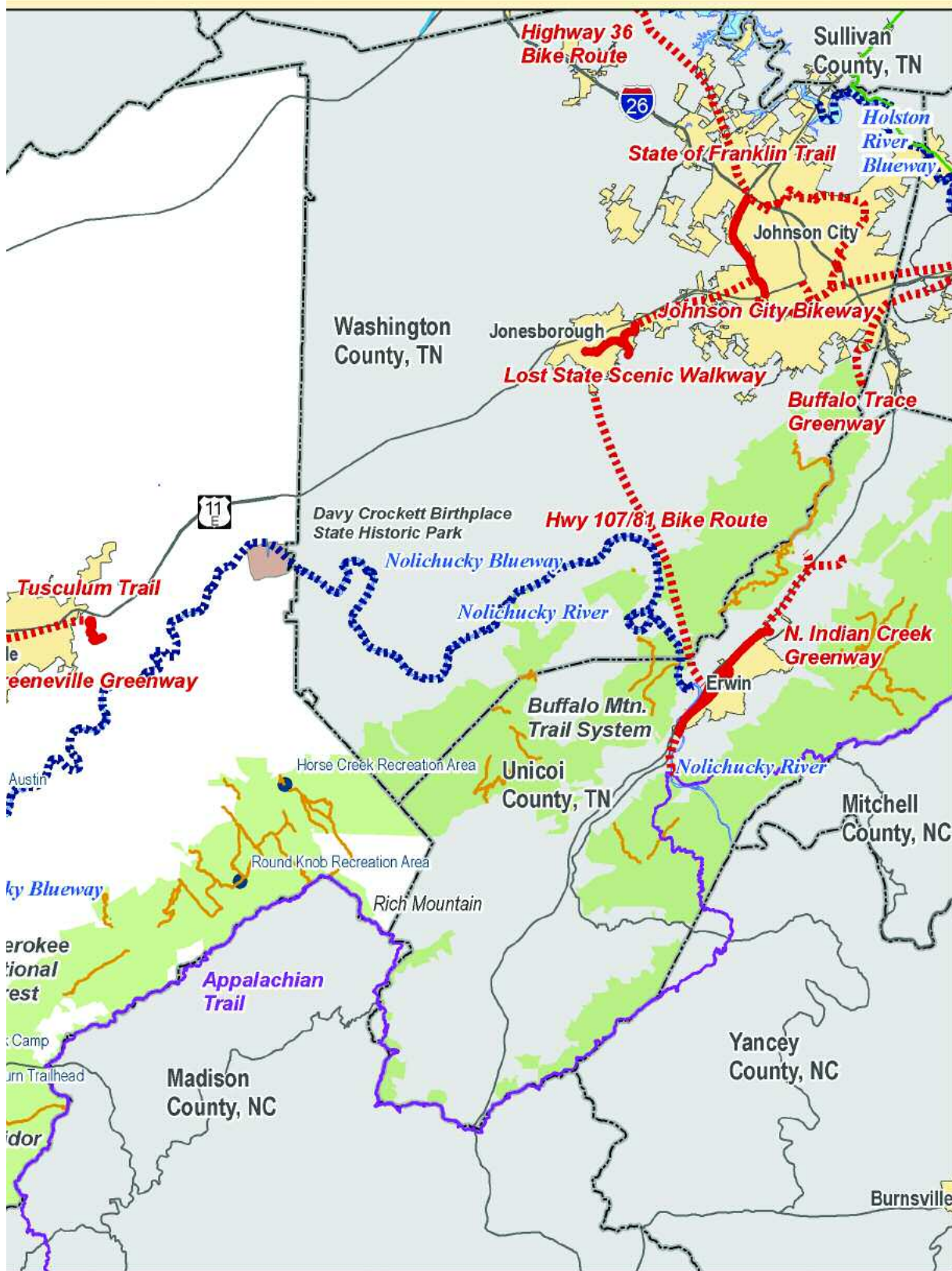
Appendix I - County Maps - Carter County, Tennessee





Greene County, Tennessee





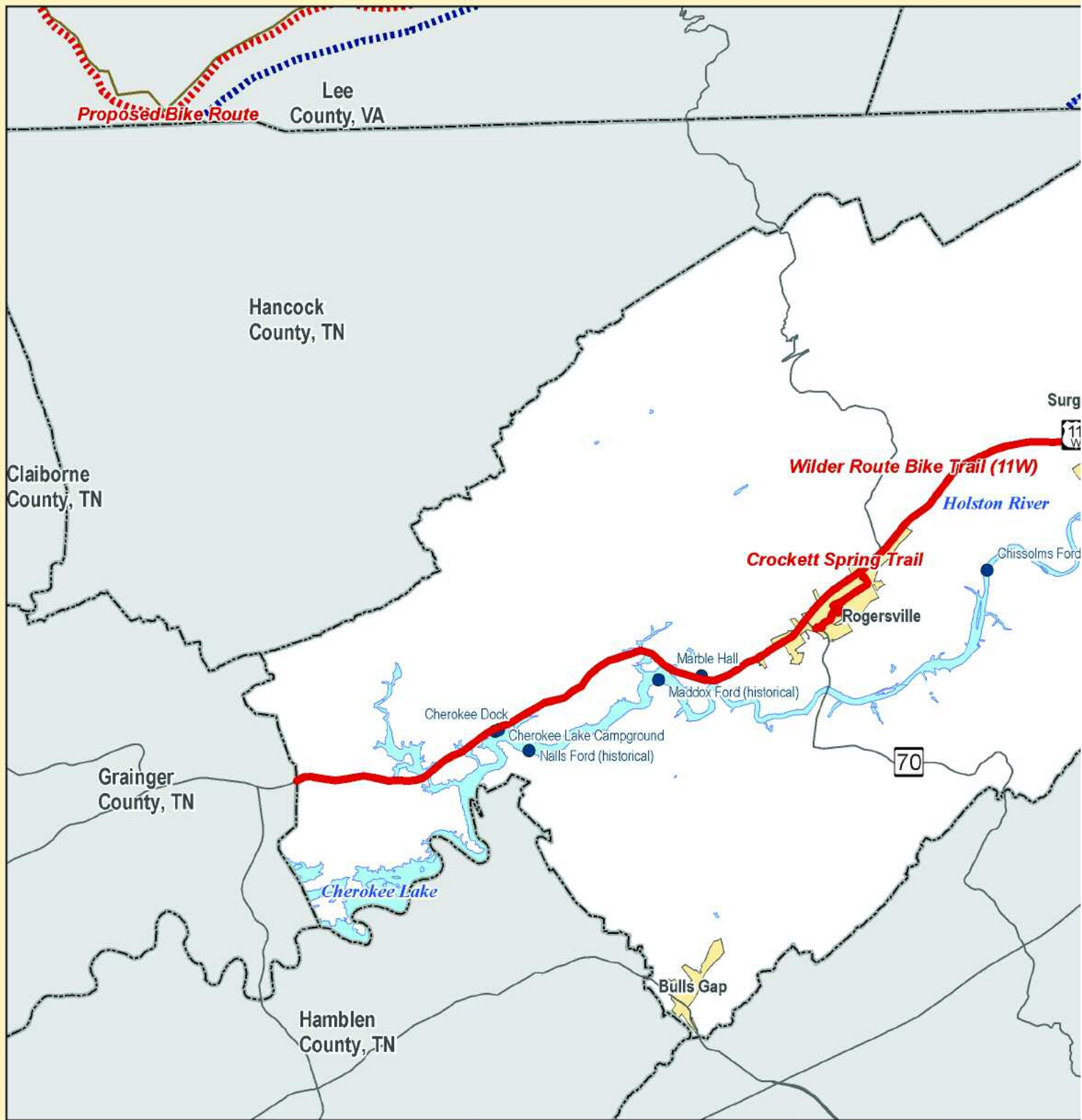
- Cherokee National Forest
- Davy Crockett Birthplace
- Appalachian Trail
- Cherokee NF Trails
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- TN State Bicycle Route
- Blueways / Water Trails

Existing Proposed

Miles

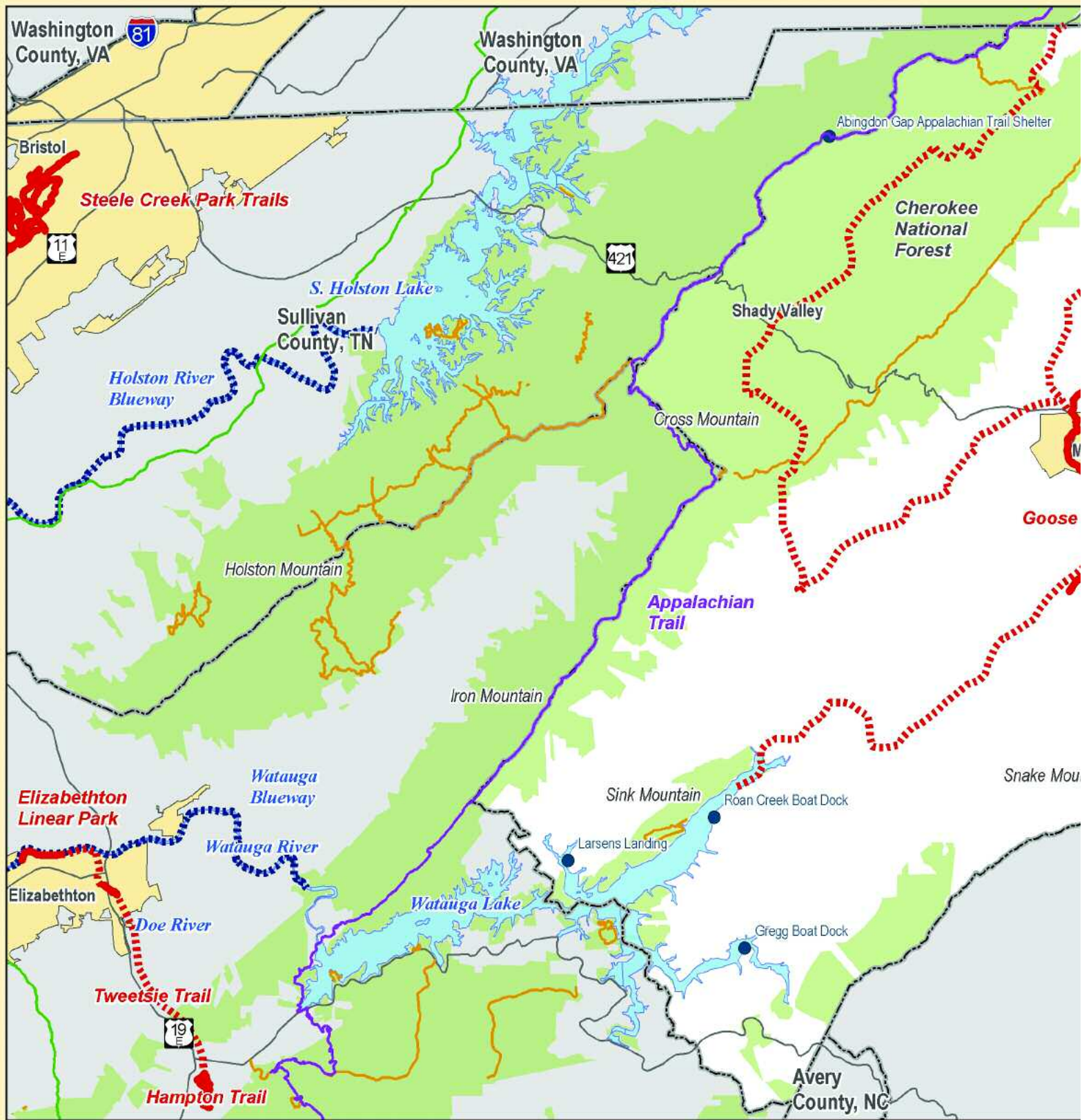
0 4.5

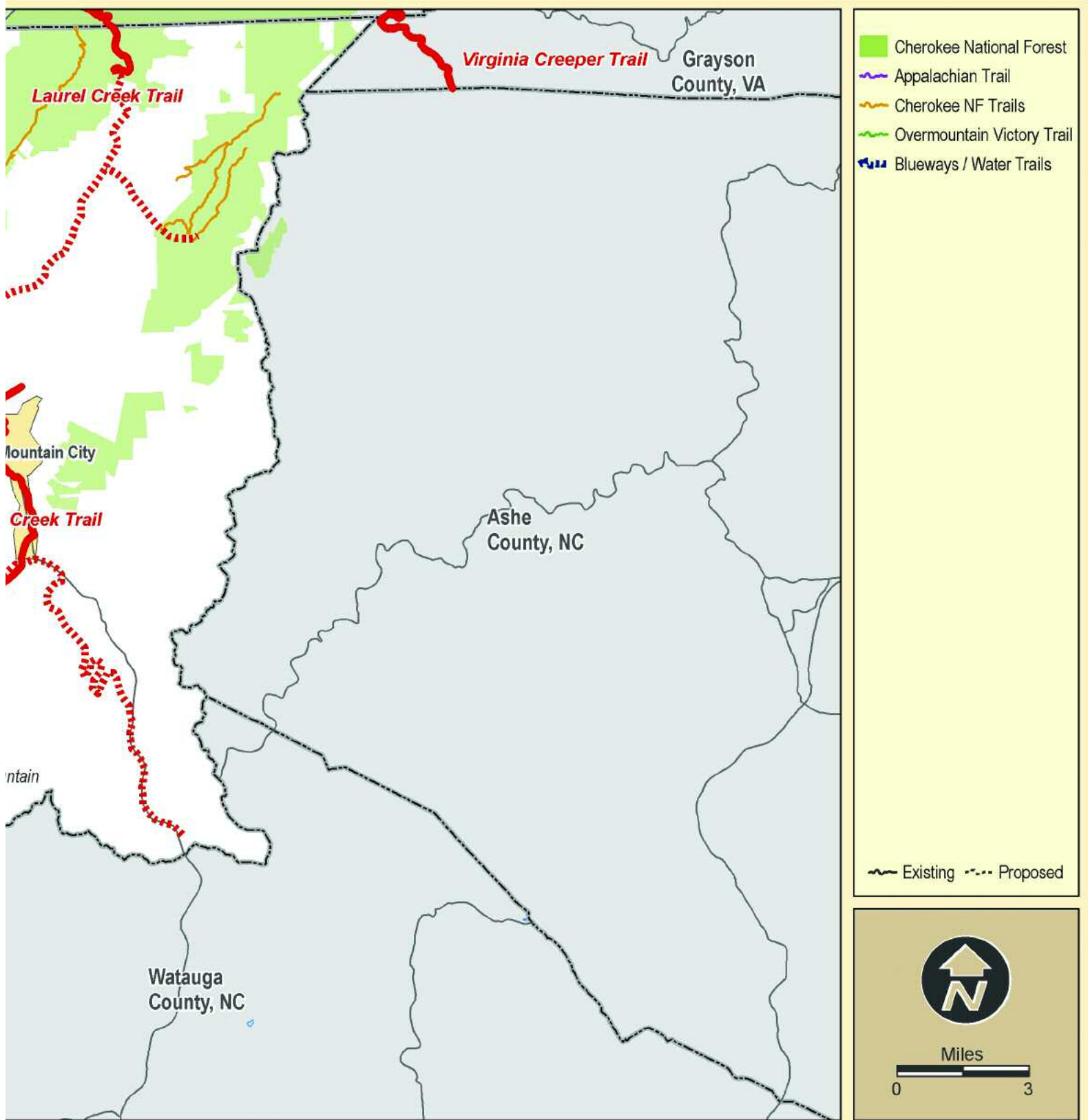
Hawkins County, Tennessee



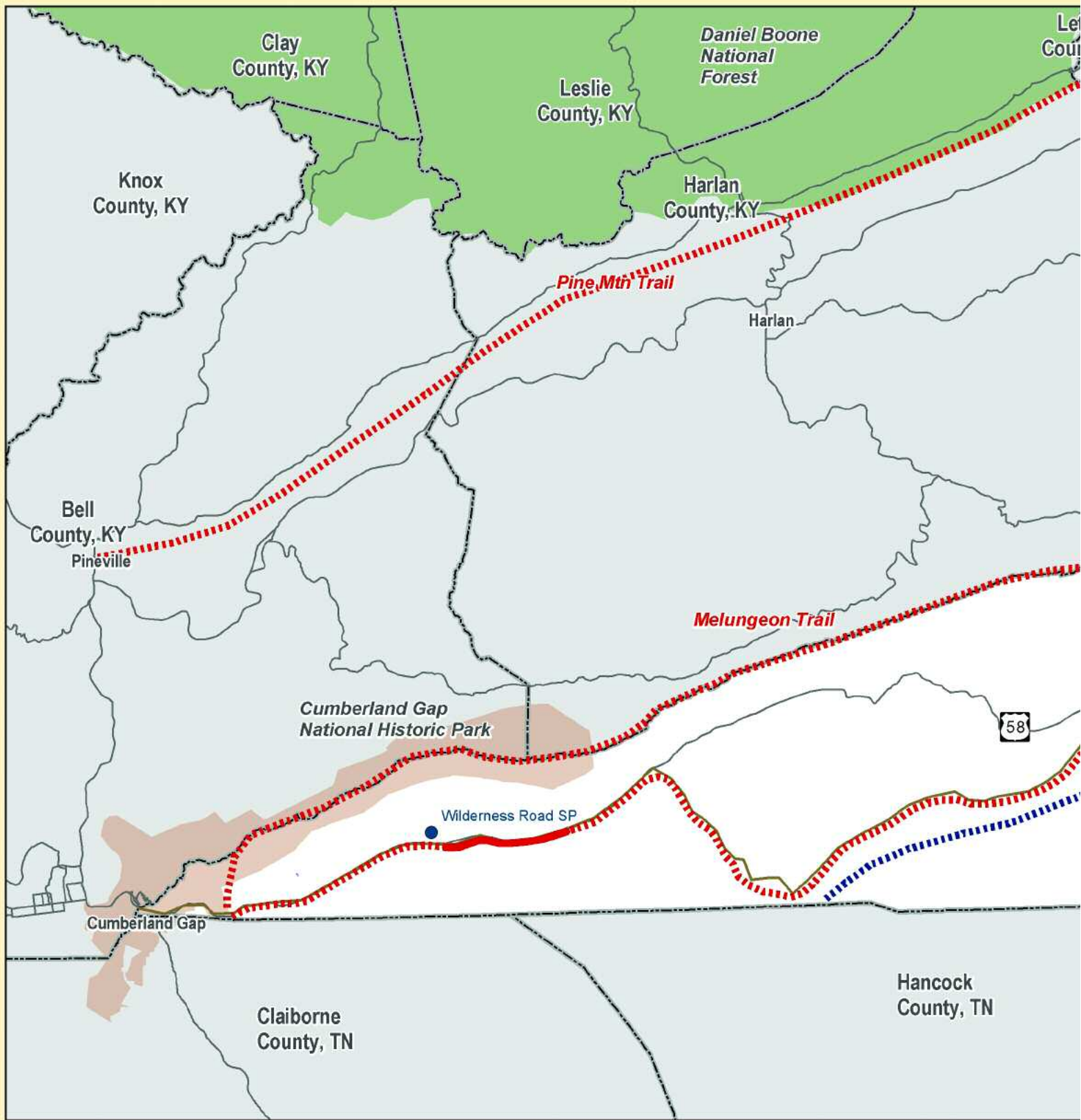


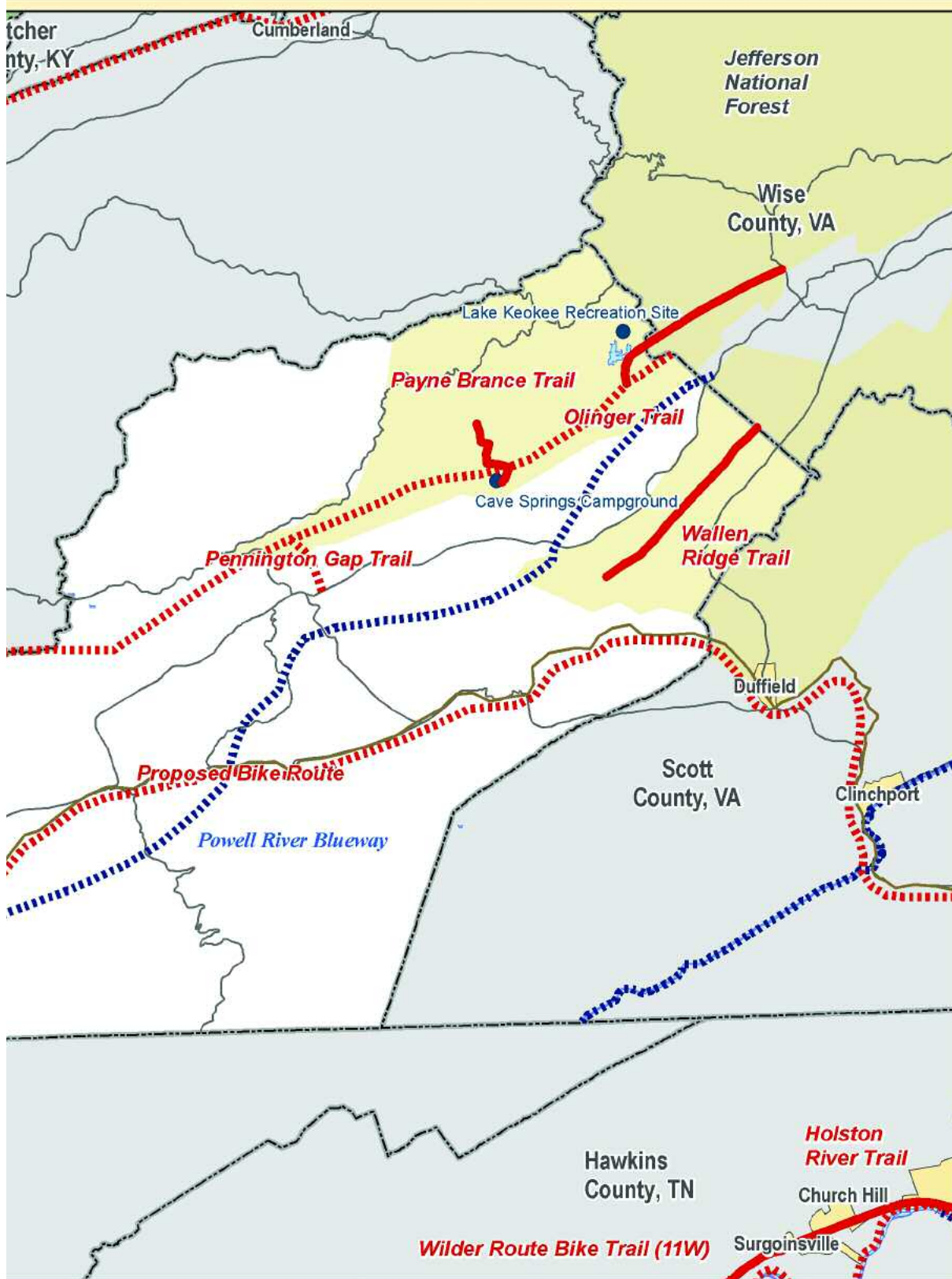
Johnson County, Tennessee





Lee County, Virginia



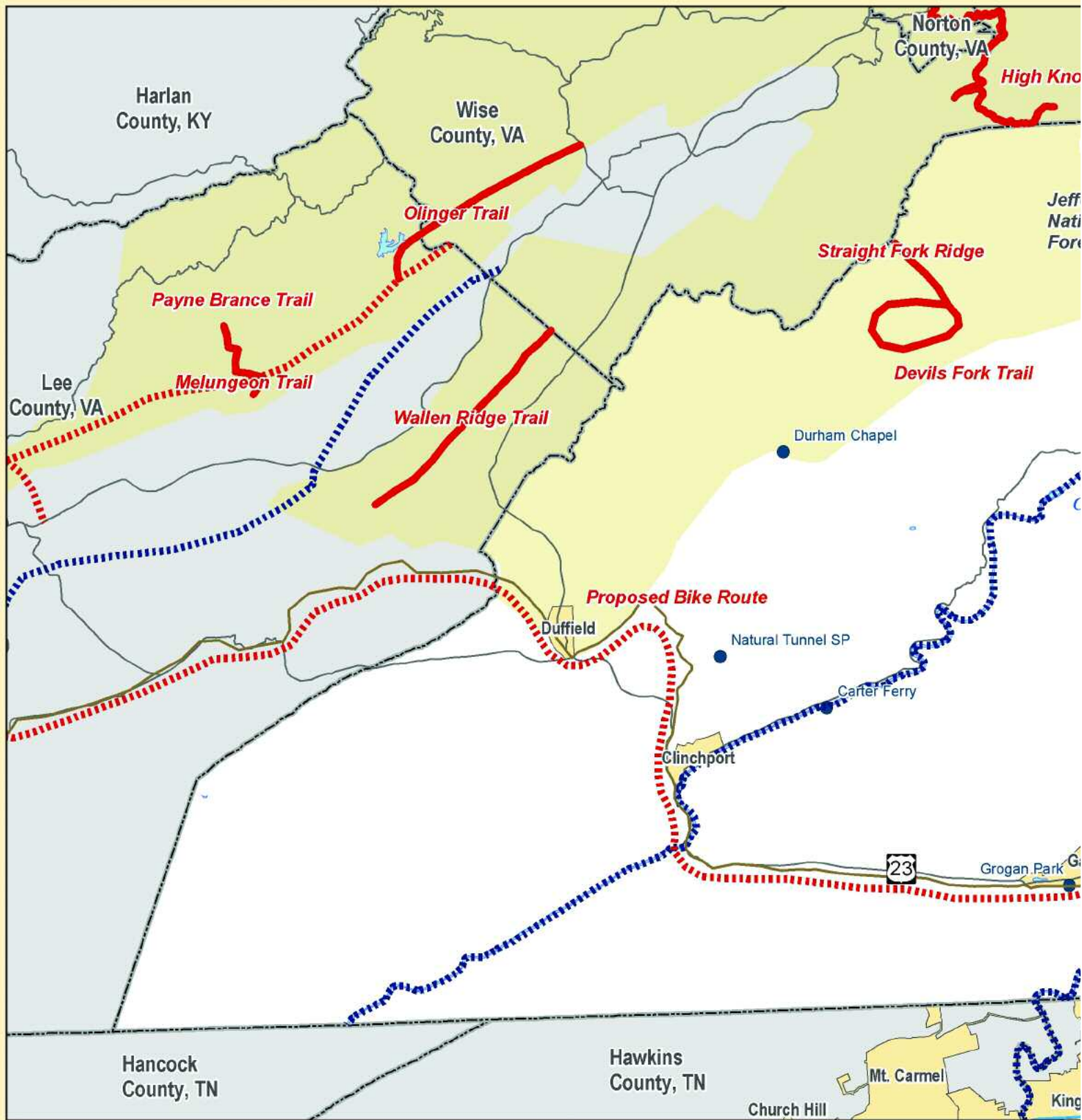


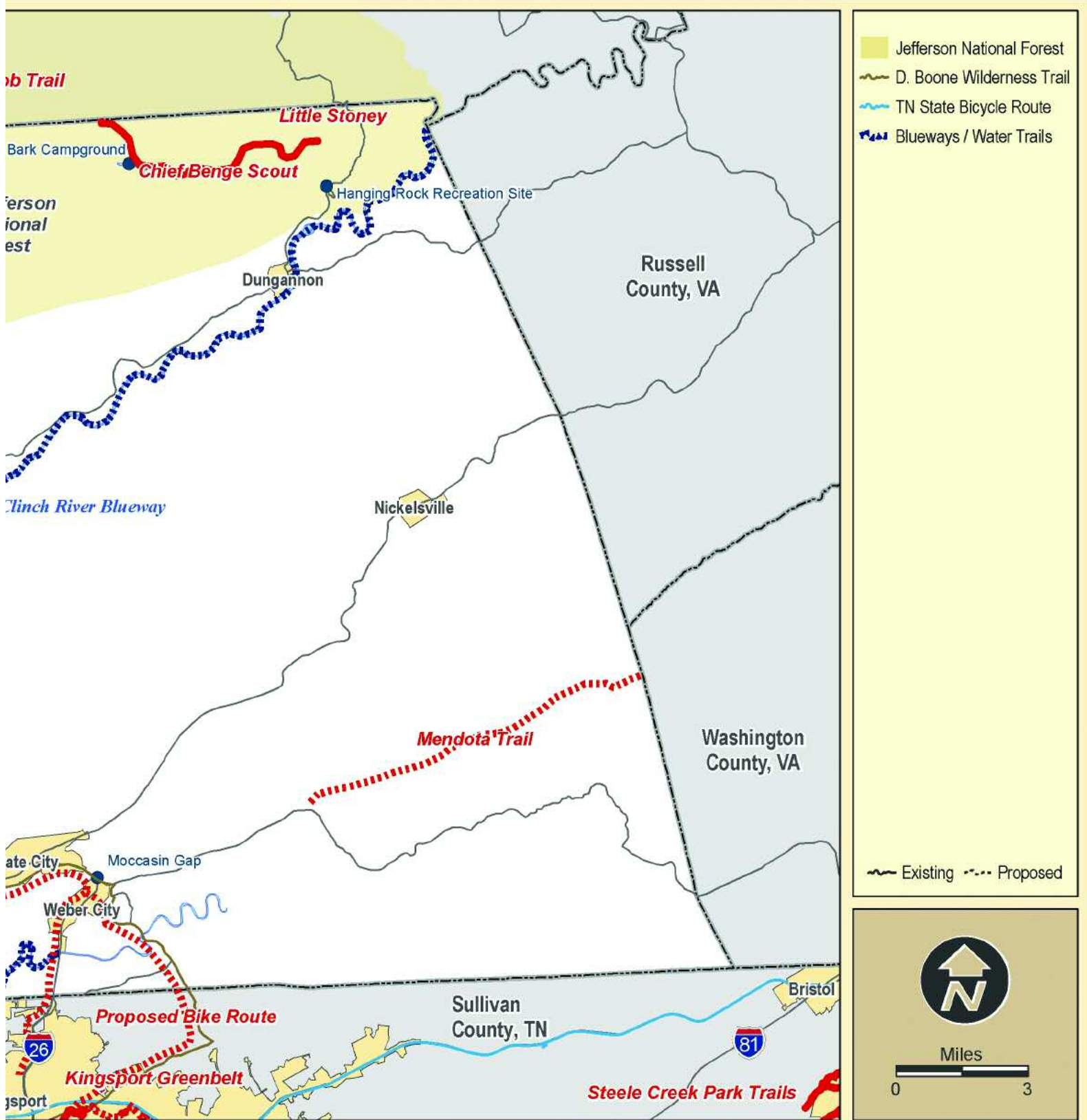
- Cumberland Gap NHP
- D. Boone National Forest
- Jefferson National Forest
- D. Boone Wilderness Trail
- TN State Bicycle Route
- Blueways / Water Trails

— Existing - - - Proposed

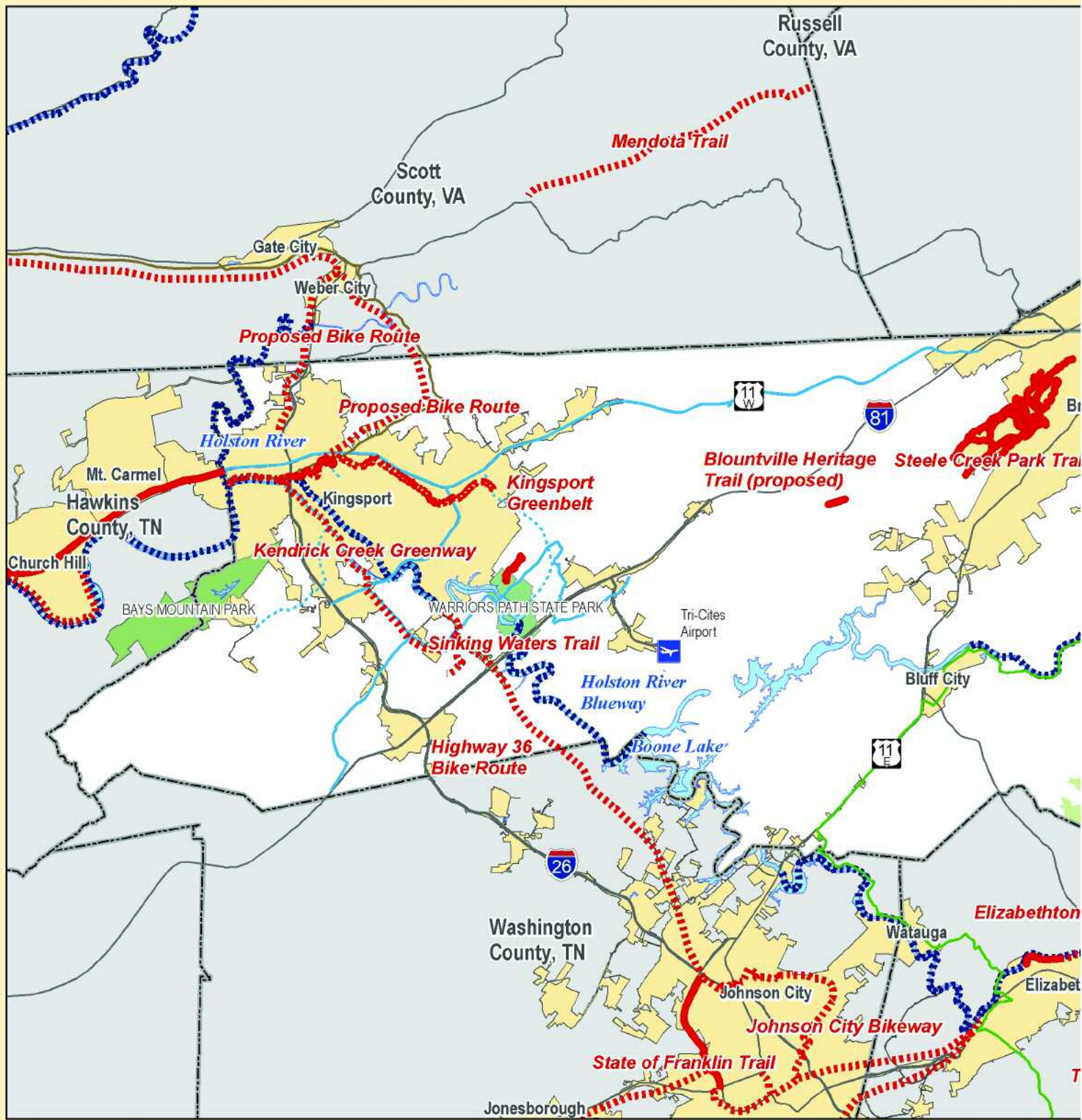


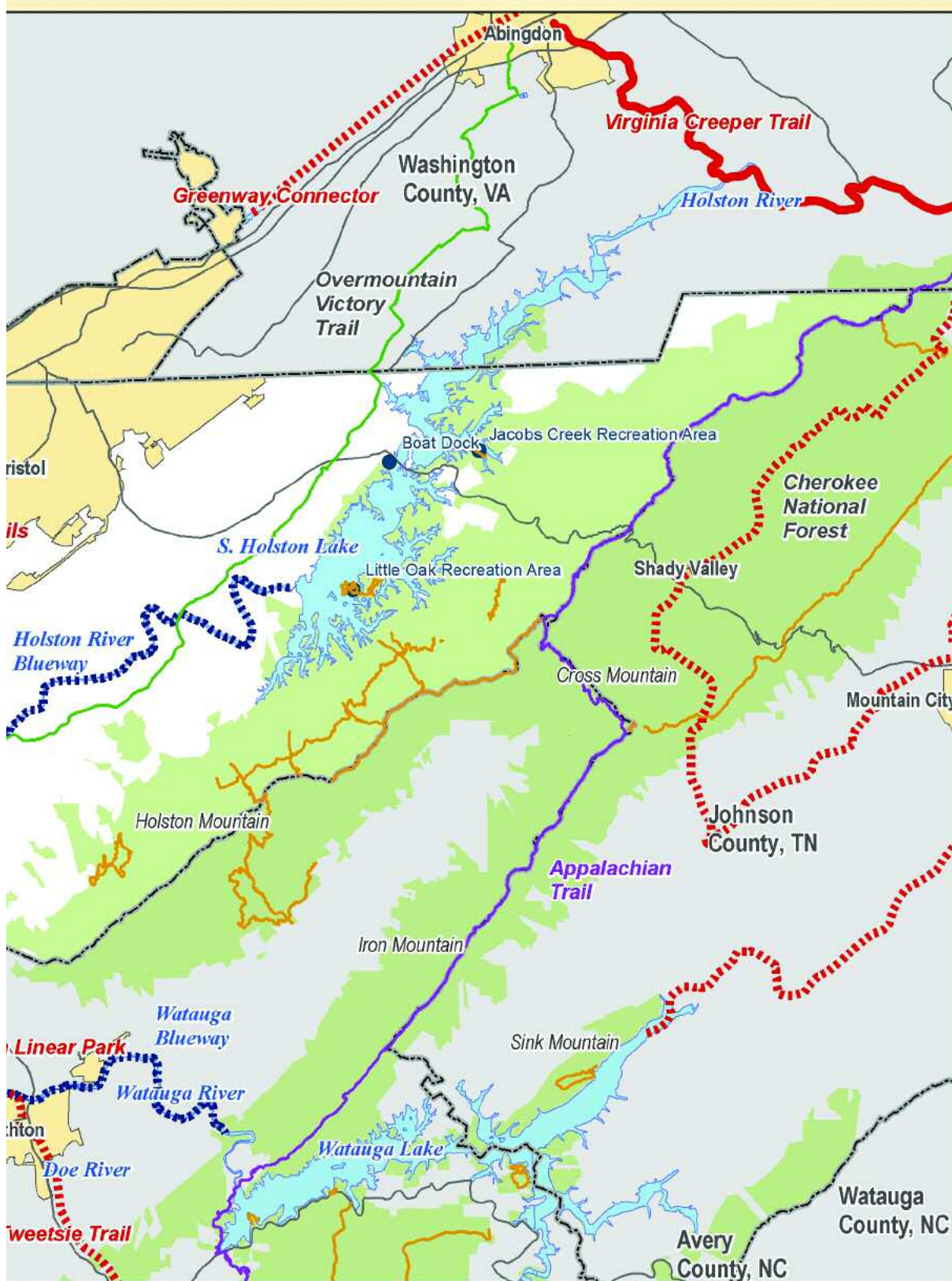
Scott County, Virginia





Sullivan County, Tennessee





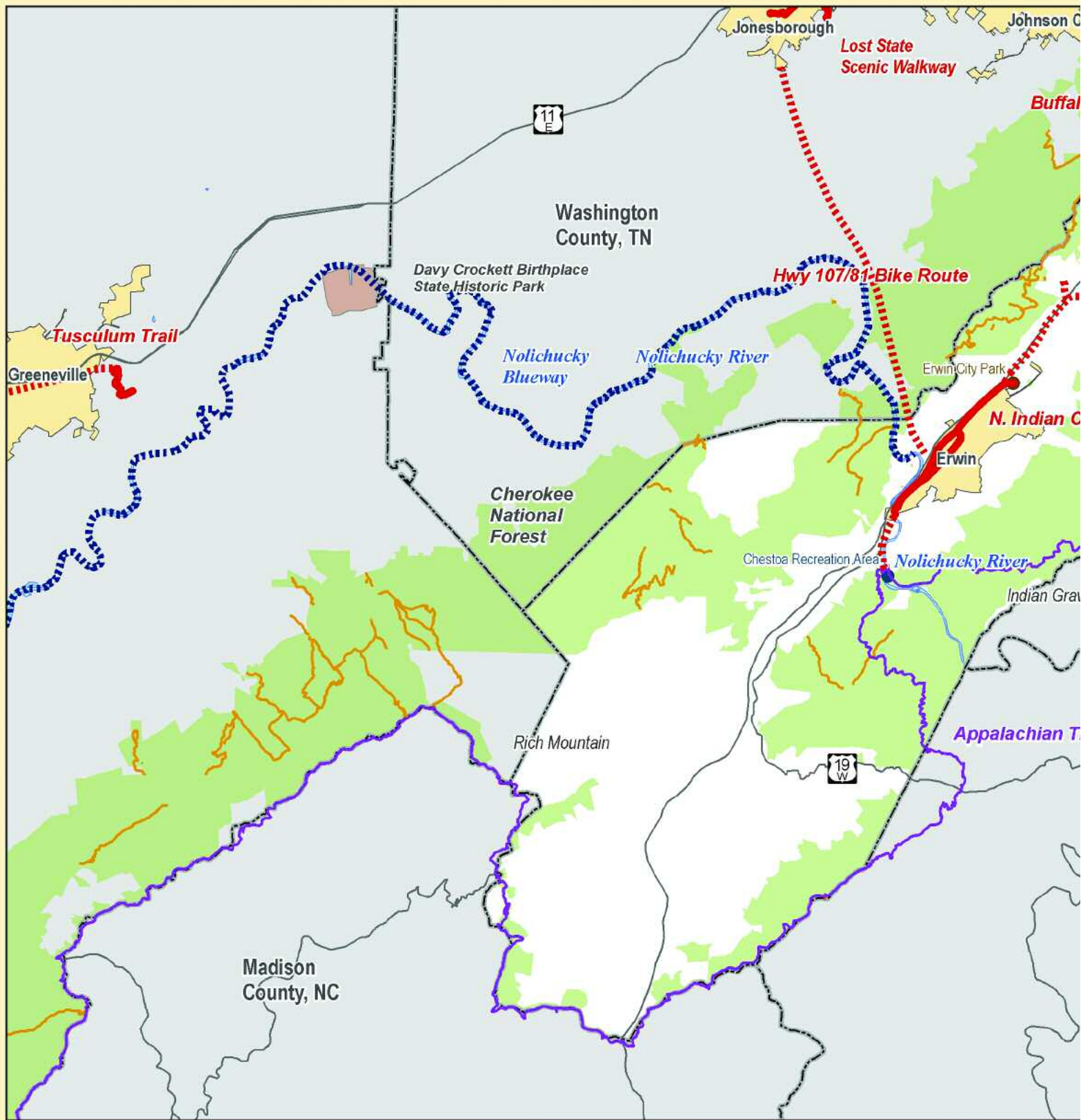
- Cherokee National Forest
- ~ Appalachian Trail
- ~ Cherokee NF Trails
- ~ Overmountain Victory Trail
- ~ D. Boone Wilderness Trail
- ~ TN State Bicycle Route
- ~ Blueways / Water Trails

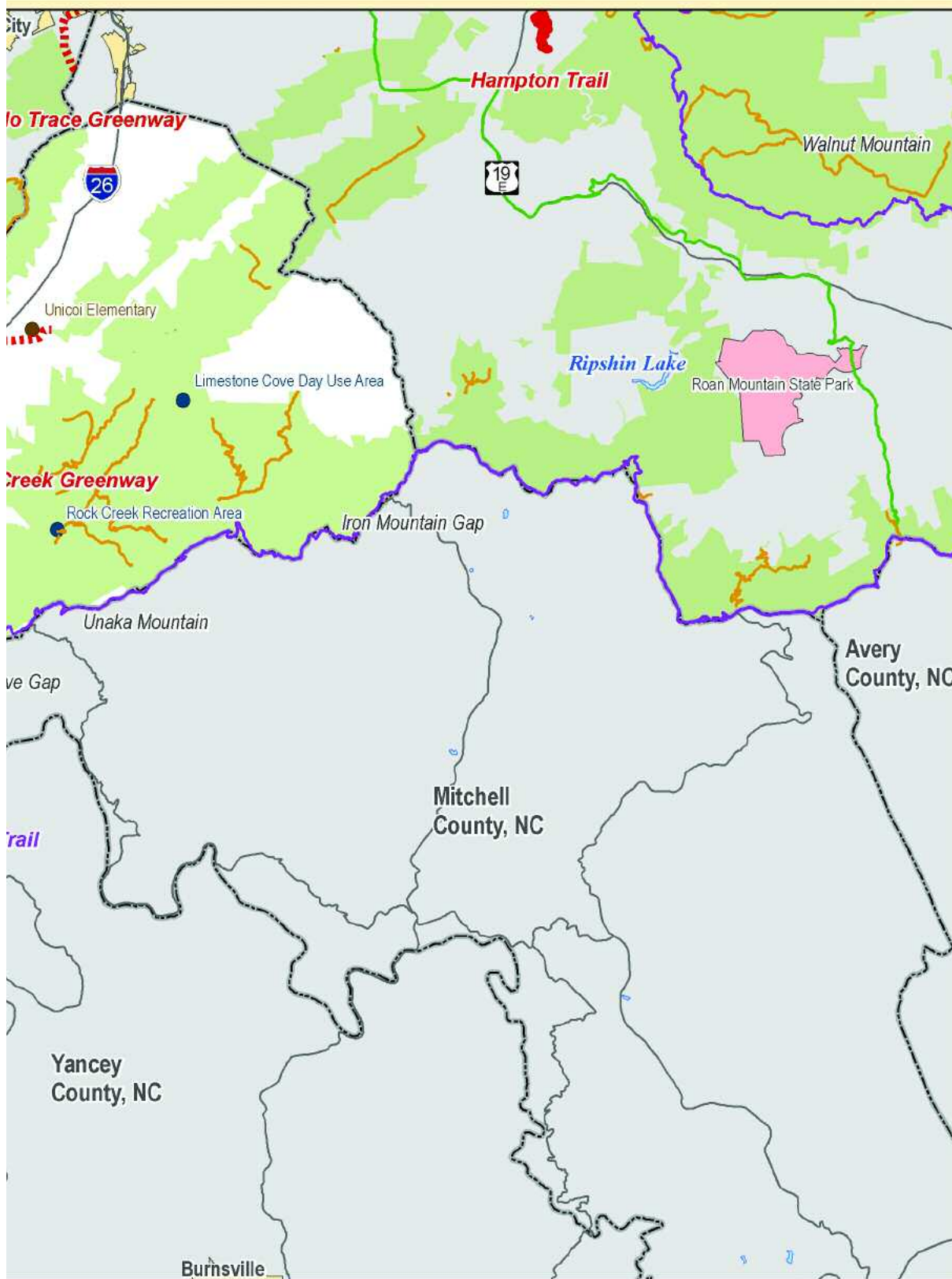
~ Existing --- Proposed



Miles
0 3.5

Unicoi County, Tennessee





- Cherokee National Forest
- Davy Crockett Birthplace
- Appalachian Trail
- Cherokee NF Trails
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- Blueways / Water Trails

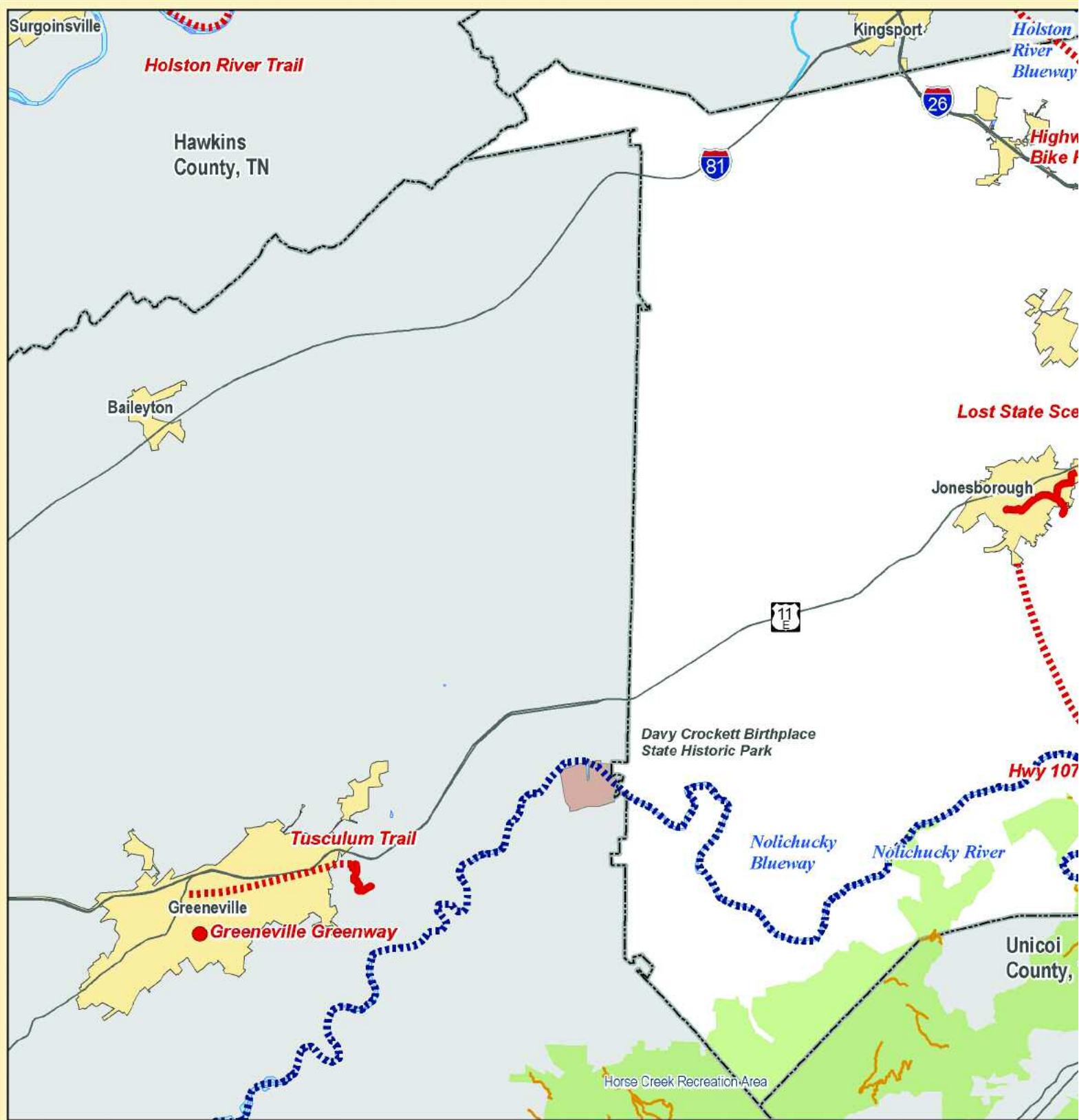
— Existing - - - Proposed

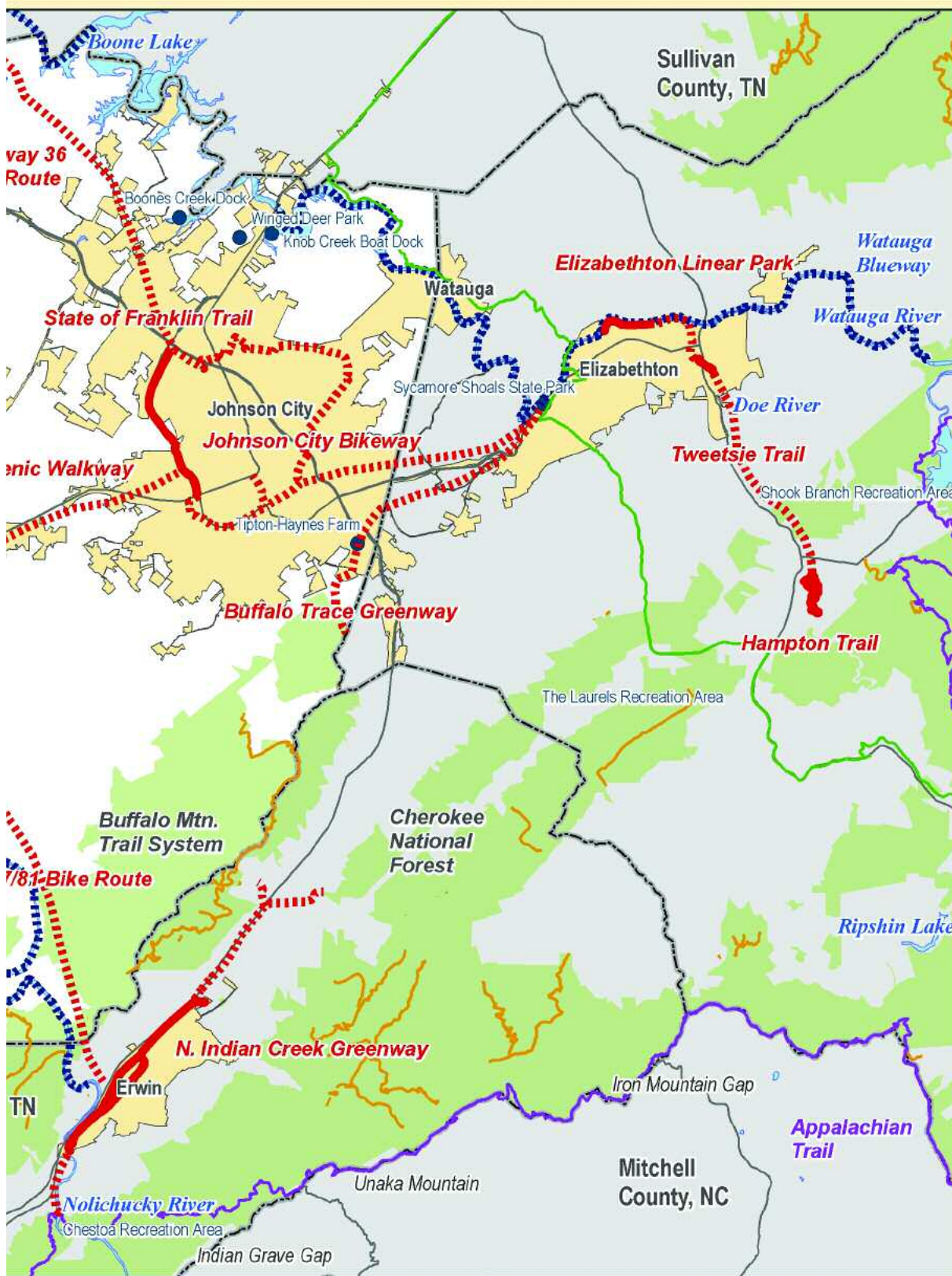


Miles



Washington County, Tennessee





- Cherokee National Forest
- Davy Crockett Birthplace
- Appalachian Trail
- Cherokee NF Trails
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- TN State Bicycle Route
- Blueways / Water Trails

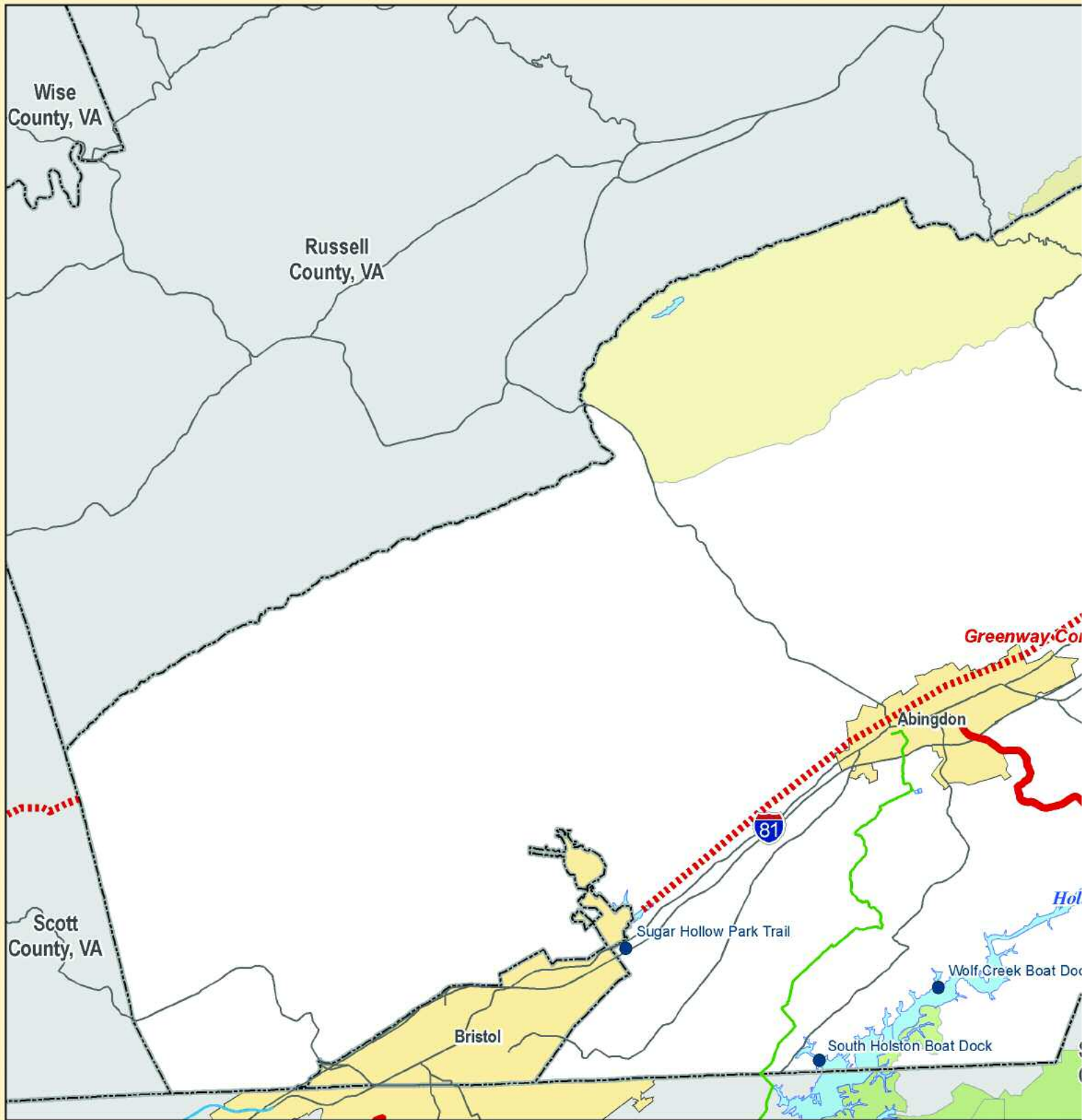
— Existing - - - Proposed

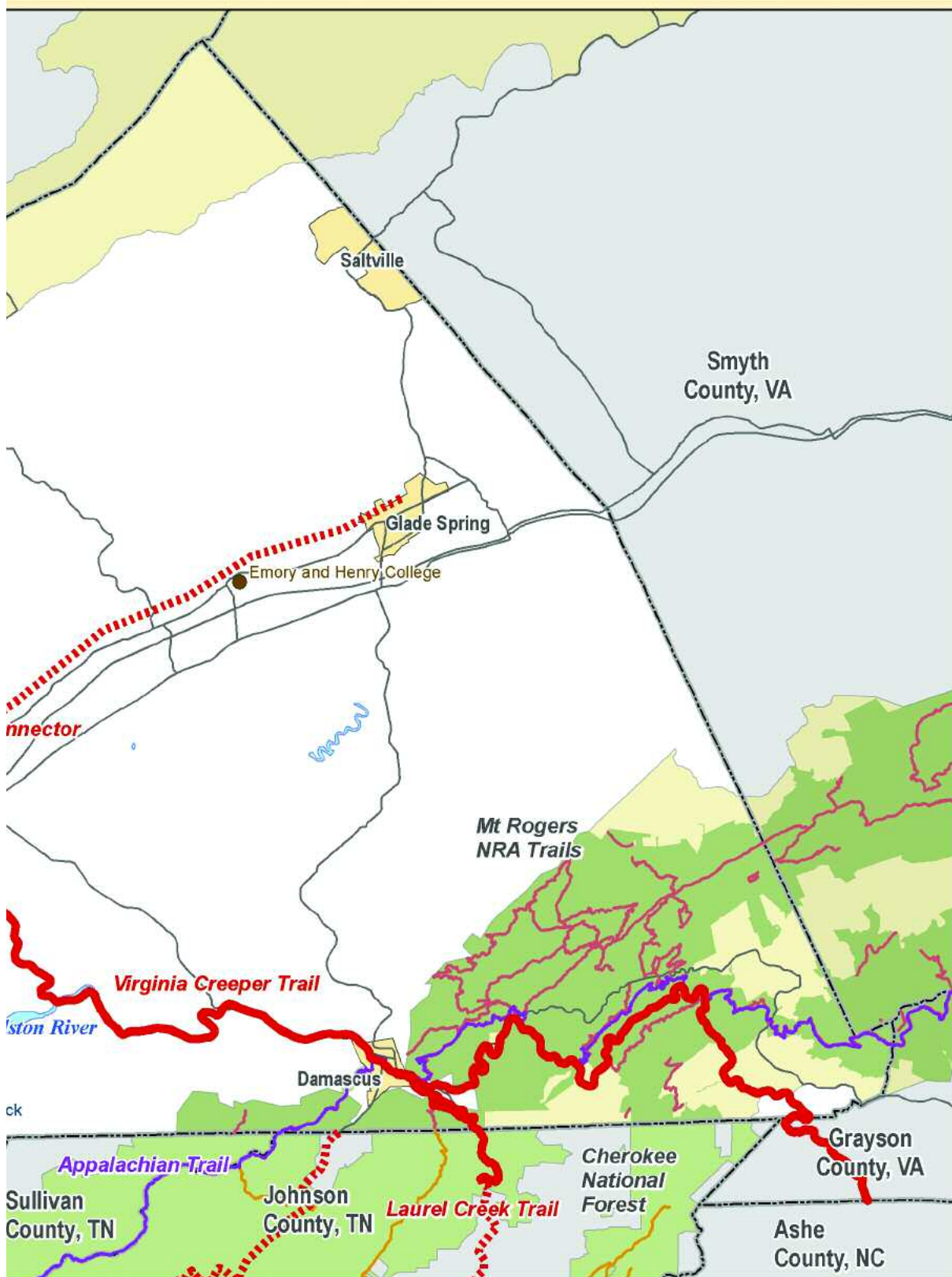


Miles
0 ————— 3

Landmark
Joining
information
to business
GIS
423-578-7010

Washington County, Virginia





- Cherokee National Forest
- Jefferson National Forest
- Mt Rogers NRA
- Appalachian Trail
- Cherokee NF Trails
- Mt Rogers NRA Trails
- Overmountain Victory Trail
- D. Boone Wilderness Trail
- TN State Bicycle Route

~~~~ Existing    - - - - Proposed











